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PROGRAMME AND BUDGET

REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE TRUST FUNDS IN 1999

Note by the secretariat

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In accordance with paragraph 9 of the Financial Rules for the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (UNCCD), its subsidiary bodies and the Convention secretariat (decision 2/COP.1), a special fund for the voluntary financing of activities under the UNCCD (the Supplementary Fund) was established by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and is managed by the Executive Secretary of the Convention secretariat. The Supplementary Fund receives contributions pursuant to paragraphs 12(b) and (c), other than those specified in paragraphs 7 and 10 of the Financial Rules, including contributions earmarked, in accordance with paragraph 15, for:

(a) Support for the participation of some representatives of non-governmental organizations from affected developing country Parties, particularly the least developed among them, in sessions of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) Facilitation of assistance to affected developing countries in accordance with article 23, paragraph 2(c) and article 26, paragraph 7, of the Convention; and

(c) Other appropriate purposes consistent with the objectives of the Convention.

2. Likewise, in accordance with paragraph 10 of the Financial Rules, a special fund to support the participation of representatives of eligible States Parties affected by desertification and/or drought in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies (the Special Fund) was established by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and is managed by the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD. The Special Fund receives contributions pursuant to paragraphs 12(b) and (c) earmarked to support the participation of representatives of developing, and, in particular, least developed country Parties affected by desertification and/or drought, particularly those in Africa, in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies.

3. By decision 6/COP.2, the Conference of the Parties, inter alia:

(a) Noted the estimated requirements under the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund submitted by the Executive Secretary;

(b) Invited Parties, as well as Governments of States not Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, to make contributions to the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund; and

(c) Requested the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its third session on the status of the trust funds established under the Financial Rules.

4. In light of the above decision, the Executive Secretary submits herewith, for the consideration of the Parties, a report on the status of the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund. The present document describes activities facilitated and expenditures incurred under the trust funds during the first half of 1999 (latest official expenditure report available at the time of document submission). It also indicates the estimated costs of activities to be facilitated for the remainder of 1999 if sufficient contributions are received in a timely manner. For consistency with the original cost plan presentation, activities are reported following the UNCCD programme and subprogramme under which the activities fall. Details concerning actual contributions received and pledges outstanding in 1999 for each of the funds are provided at the end of each section. The table of contributions and pledges for the two trust funds will later be updated (as document ICCD/COP(3)/3/Add.1) to reflect those received after submission.

5. Concerning the income of these trust funds, it will be recalled that, under the provisions of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 52/198, any amounts remaining as at 31 December 1998 in the Trust Fund and Special Voluntary Fund established by General Assembly resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992, shall be transferred, respectively, to the Supplementary Fund and to the Special Fund. In this manner, activities that remained unfinished in 1998 could be brought to completion in 1999. The balances as at 31 December 1998 of US$ 1,582,658 under the Trust Fund and of US$ 1,297,444 under the Special Voluntary Fund have therefore been transferred to the Supplementary Fund and Special Fund accounts, respectively. For a summary of activities financed under the Trust Fund and Special Voluntary Fund from their establishment in 1993 to their closure in 1998, see document INCD/COP(3)/INF.2.

II. SUPPLEMENTARY FUND
(Special Fund for the voluntary financing of activities under the UNCCD)

A. Summary tables of expenditures, contributions and outstanding pledges in 1999

Table 1. Supplementary Fund: summary of actual 1999 expenditure as at 30 June 1999, by programme

(US dollars)

Programme	Actual January-June	Projected July-December	Total estimated expenditure
Executive direction and management	25 100	24 400	49 500
Substantive support to the COP and its subsidiary bodies	204 700	430 600	635 300
Facilitation of implementation and coordination	841 600	1 493 900	2 335 500
External relations and public information	138 800	692 000	830 800
Subtotal programmes	**1 210 200**	**2 640 900**	**3 851 100**
13 per cent United Nations programme support costs	157 300	343 300	500 600
Total expenditures	**1 367 500**	**2 984 200**	**4 351 700**

Table 2. Supplementary Fund: summary of actual 1999 expenditure as at 30 June 1999, by object of expenditure

(US dollars)

Object of expenditure	Amount
Staff costs	-
Other personnel-related costs	25 100
Consultants and experts	137 900
Travel of participants and representatives	62 900
Travel of staff	90 300
Contractual services	23 000
Grants	871 000
Subtotal expenditures	**1 210 200**
13 per cent United Nations programme support costs	157 300
Total expenditures	**1 367 500**

Table 3. Supplementary Fund: contributions and outstanding pledges in 1999
(as at 31 August 1999)

Donor country /organization	Contribution (US dollars)	Outstanding pledges	
		Pledge	US dollars equivalenta/
Argentina	-	US$ 15 000	15 000
Belgium	57 445	-	-
Canada	23 121	Can$ 2 500	1 678
Chile	5 000	-	-
Finland	55 292	Fmk 230 000	40 464
France	44 344	-	-
Germany	-	DM 15 000	8 022
Italy	284 000	-	-
Italy	-	Lit 200 000 000	108 045
Italy	-	Lit 200 000 000	108 045
Italy	-	US$ 101 700	101 700
Italy	-	US$ 109 950	109 950
Japan	1 800 024	-	-
Mexico	20 000	-	20 000
Netherlands	25 000	-	-
Norway	-	NKr 200 000	25 189
Spain	158 644	-	-
Switzerland	80 536	Sw F 525 000	343 137
United Kingdom	30 000	-	-
United States of America	-	US$ 50 000	50 000
United States of America	-	US$ 55 000	55 000
United States of America	-	US$ 100 000	100 000
IFAD	30 000	-	-
IFAD	-	US$ 90 000	90 000
IFAD	-	-	70 000
OAU	-	US$ 100 000	100 000
UNEP	140 000	US$ 20 000	20 000
UNEP	-	US$ 50 000	50 000
WMO	30 314	-	-
WMO	-	Sw F 36 800	24 052
Total	**2 763 720**		**1 423 942**

Note: IFAD = International Fund for Agricultural Development
OAU = Organization of African Unity
UNEP = United Nations Environment Programme
WMO = World Meteorological Organization

a/ Using United Nations exchange rate of August 1999.

B. Executive direction and management

6. During the reporting period, six work-months of temporary clerical and secretarial support required under this programme were funded under the Supplementary Fund from contributions received from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). It is projected that another six work-months of clerical and secretarial support will be financed for the rest of 1999.

C. Substantive support to the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies

1. Traditional knowledge

7. Activities related to work on traditional knowledge were facilitated by the secretariat under the Supplementary Fund. The activities were undertaken in response to the following requests made to the secretariat by the Conference of the Parties during its second session:

(a) To complete its ongoing work on compiling the most important and widely applied traditional knowledge on a regional and subregional basis and on a national scale, where appropriate (decision 14/COP.2, para. 1). The secretariat was assisted by a consultant in the preparation of a synthesis on important and widely applied traditional knowledge on a subregional and regional basis and on a national scale (ICCD/COP(3)/CST/2);

(b) To explore the ways and means of linking the work of the Committee on traditional knowledge with similar work being undertaken under other related conventions and to report to the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) thereon at its third session (decision 14/COP.2, para. 2(a)). The secretariat was assisted by a consultant in the preparation of a report on linkage of the work of the CST on traditional knowledge with that of related conventions (ICCD/COP(3)/CST/3/Add.1), which included travel for consultation with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);

(c) To prepare a report on traditional knowledge in dryland ecosystems drawing on the discussions that took place at the second session of the Committee on Science and Technology (decision 14/COP.2, para. 2(b)). The secretariat was assisted by a consultant in the preparation of this report on dryland ecosystems (ICCD/COP(3)/CST/3/Add.2); and

At the same session, the Conference of the Parties decided to appoint an ad hoc panel composed of ten experts and defined its terms of reference (decision 14/COP.2, para. 3). The panel was convened in Matera, Italy, from 15 to 18 July 1999, with the travel of participants and experts financed from contributions received under the Supplementary Fund (estimated travel costs: US$ 18,000).

2. CST Bureau meeting

8. By decision 12/COP.2, the Conference of the Parties requested the secretariat to facilitate the convening of at least one inter-sessional meeting of the Bureau of the CST in order to review decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties and other related matters regarding its work, especially the planning and organization of the next session of the CST. The secretariat convened the Bureau meeting in Bonn from 27 to 28 July 1999, at which experts were invited to make presentations on early warning systems and traditional knowledge. The costs of interpretation services were funded under the Supplementary Fund. Travel of eligible CST Bureau members and experts were funded under the core budget.

3. Early warning systems

9. At its second session, the Conference of the Parties decided that the priority issue to be addressed in depth by the Committee on Science and Technology at its third session should be early warning systems in the broadest sense (decision 12/COP.2). In order to prepare a full day devoted to this topic at the third session of the CST, the secretariat, in cooperation with the Italian Government, is organizing a meeting in Niamey, Niger, from 25 to 28 October 1999 (estimated cost: US$ 109,950).

4. Symposium on El Niño

10. The first regional conference of the Latin America and the Caribbean region decided to organize a symposium on El Niño and La Niña, phenomena which affect many regions of the world, particularly Latin America and the Caribbean. A symposium is tentatively planned in Chile from 12 to 15 October 1999. Some organizations, such as the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Italian cooperation agency have already expressed willingness to contribute to this symposium (estimated cost: US$ 306,000).

D. Facilitation of implementation and coordination

Table 4. Estimated 1999 expenditure
(thousands of US dollars, rounded)

	Actual January-June[1]	Projected July-December	Total estimated 1999
Africa	704.6	689.0	1 393.6
Asia	39.6	399.3	438.9
Latin America and the Caribbean	93.5	265.6	359.1
Northern Mediterranean and other European countries	3.9	140.0	143.9
Subtotal	**841.6**	**1 493.9**	**2 335.5**
13 per cent programme support cost	109.4	194.2	303.6
Total	**951.0**	**1 688.1**	**2 639.1**

11. Activities facilitated under this heading are undertaken at the national, subregional, regional and interregional levels.

12. At the national level, the secretariat continues to facilitate national awareness seminars on the Convention. By promoting contacts between the various partners working at the national level, these seminars facilitate the integration into the implementation process of all interested national stakeholders, including institutions or organizations that may not yet have been involved in the process. As presentation and exchange forums, these seminars also provide the opportunity to bring together important actors in civil society, as well as field representatives of donor agencies.

13. Subregional and regional activities facilitated aim to promote the UNCCD implementation through enhancing subregional and regional cooperation, as desertification is a phenomenon which has very important subregional and regional dimensions. Such activities can work both horizontally, in promoting regional cooperation, and vertically, in encouraging national level activities. The secretariat supports these activities in a manner that is conducive to achieving the Convention's objectives.

14. Subregional consultation processes take the form of meetings organized by a competent subregional organization, acting as coordinating agency, with the support of the secretariat. They bring together representatives of the governments of a given subregion, donor countries and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to discuss measures to be taken to promote the implementation of the Convention in the subregion.

15. These meetings and workshops provide all parties involved with an opportunity to increase their level of knowledge about the Convention and to formulate a clear and common view of their obligations and respective roles.

1. Africa

National level

16. Using contributions to the Supplementary Fund and in collaboration with competent international or regional organizations, the secretariat was able to facilitate in June 1999 the holding of national awareness seminars in Togo and Nigeria.

17. Funds have also been allocated to Benin, Chad, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nigeria and Togo to foster the consultative and participatory processes geared to elaborating national action programmes (NAPs). More specifically, funding was provided as support to national coordinating bodies, to train national experts in matters pertaining to implementation of the UNCCD and to carry out specific studies. A national forum for the validation of the national environmental action plan was held in Lome (Togo), on 7 and 8 June 1999. The meeting adopted the plan with a number of recommendations and priority programmes.

18. Technical support has been provided through the secretariat of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to some member States (Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia) with the objective of strengthening their efforts in the context of the national action programme processes.

19. The secretariat also allocated a grant to the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) for assistance towards the formulation of NAPs in the IGAD member States.

20. A major issue in the first six months of 1999 was the elaboration of national reports on the implementation of the Convention by African country Parties. In this context, the secretariat financed, through the subregional institutions (i.e. the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), IGAD, and SADC) the services of local experts, to assist, upon request, the national coordinating bodies in the formulation of the national reports. During their missions, the experts also held consultations mainly with local authorities and discussed with them ways and means to implement the Convention in the respective countries. To provide African national focal points, as coordinators of the preparation of the national reports, with relevant materials, the secretariat allocated a grant to the United Nations Institute for Training and Research to prepare a technical help guide (see document ICCD/COP(3)/INF.3).

21. Briefing sessions for national African focal points on the procedures for elaboration of national reports were organized in March 1999, by the four relevant subregional organizations with the support of the secretariat. On the same occasion, participants reported on and discussed progress made in the implementation of the UNCCD in their countries.

22. During the second half of 1999, it is planned to facilitate the organization of national forums in three countries: Morocco, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania (estimated cost: US$ 60,000).

Subregional level

23. The subregional consultative processes are well under way in the four subregions of Africa. During the reporting period the secretariat granted financial support to CILSS and AMU for the organization of subregional forums: in Lome, Togo, 20-25 May 1999, the ministers for environment adopted the framework of a subregional action programme (SRAP) for Western Africa, following an expert meeting attended by government representatives, non-governmental organizations and donor organizations; the first draft of the subregional action programme for North Africa was presented to the experts on 6-7 July and will be discussed at the forum in Algiers in September. The secretariat allocated a grant contribution to the AMU secretariat to facilitate the organization of the forum on the SRAP for the Maghreb subregion. Financial support has been granted to SADC and IGAD to enable them to carry out their missions in the formulation phases of priority projects (e.g. early warning systems) in the context of their SRAP.

24. The promotion of pilot projects in transboundary areas of CILSS and AMU member States has been successfully reactivated. During a consultation in Geneva (25-26 January 1999), representatives of CILSS and UMA made presentations on ongoing formulation missions. To date, grants have been provided for the formulation of four projects (Algeria/Tunisia, Burkina Faso/Niger, Mali/Algeria/Niger, Mali/Mauritania), which, with regard to their implementation, have already been submitted to different donors for possible contributions.

25. During the second half of 1999, the secretariat will provide financial support to IGAD and SADC to enable them to proceed with the formulation and implementation of the SRAP (estimated cost: US$ 38,000). In addition, it is planned to facilitate the organization of the forum on the SRAP for the IGAD subregion (estimated cost US$ 40,000). Grants will also be provided for formulation and implementation of pilot projects in transboundary areas of CILSS and AMU member States (estimated cost: US$ 300,000).

Regional level

26. In Africa, the secretariat continued to follow the process recommended by the pan-African conference on the implementation of the UNCCD (Ouagadougou, 1997) to promote the elaboration of a regional action programme (RAP). This led to the convening of four more thematic workshops; two had already been organized before July 1998. One final workshop out of a series of seven advocated by the Ouagadougou conference was held from 20 to 23 July in Harare, Zimbabwe. This workshop was organized in close collaboration with the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) and the Government of Zimbabwe (estimated cost: US$ 81,000).

27. The third workshop focused on rational management of rangelands and development of fodder crops and was organized together with the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (4-7 August 1998); the fourth workshop dealt with integrated management of international river, lake and hydrogeological basins in Africa and was organized jointly with the African Development Bank (ADB) in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire (29 September to 2 October 1998); the theme of the fifth workshop was renewable energy and eco-technologies, organized jointly with the energy programme of the World Bank, the Energy and Environment Institute of the Francophone Countries (IEPF) and the Tunisian National Agency for Renewable Energies, in Tunis, Tunisia (26-29 October 1998); the sixth workshop, on the promotion of sustainable agricultural farming systems, was backed by the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), and took place in Sadore, Niger (23-26 March 1999).

28. The process of establishing a regional coordination unit in Africa has been initiated. Pursuant to the conclusion of the agreement establishing this unit, the secretariat hired on a short-term basis the services of an African expert who will be coordinating the formulation process of the regional action programme and be based in Abidjan, hosted by the African Development Bank (estimated cost of start-up activities: US$ 70,000).

29. During the second half of 1999, the secretariat will facilitate the organization of the first forum on the regional action programme to combat desertification in Africa (Nairobi, September 1999). This meeting will be co-organized by UNEP and the UNCCD secretariat (estimated cost: US$ 100,000).

2. Asia

National level

30. National workshops on the implementation of the UNCCD were held:

(a) In Islamabad, Pakistan (22-23 May 1999). This was organized by a Pakistan non-governmental organization jointly with the Government of Pakistan (see also paragraph 47(c) below) to assess the progress made in UNCCD implementation in Pakistan and identify further measures to facilitate implementation; and

(b) In Yemen (30 May - 2 June 1999) to review the national action plan to combat desertification and land resource degradation.

31. Requests have been received to facilitate a workshop to examine the progress of Convention implementation at the national level in the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Vientiane, 14-16 September), and national awareness seminars, also in September, on implementing the UNCCD in Cambodia, Indonesia and Sri Lanka (estimated cost: US$ 33,400).

32. During the remainder of 1999, it is planned to provide institutional support to five States of Central Asian (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) to strengthen their focal points (estimated cost: US$ 165,000).

Regional level

33. To advance the preparation of the thematic programme networks (TPN) which constitute the regional action programme for Asia, an international expert group meeting was held, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in Bangkok, Thailand (10-13 November 1998). Outlines, time-frame and proposed regional institutional arrangements were discussed, in particular, networks on desertification monitoring and assessment (TPN1), agroforestry and soil conservation (TPN2) and rangeland management and sand dune fixation (TPN3).

34. In cooperation with the Government of China, the secretariat facilitated three Asian regional meetings in Beijing: the Africa-Asia Workshop on Early Warning Systems (22-23 July 1999); the Second Asian National Focal Points Meeting (24-25 July 1999); and the Launching Meeting of the TPN1 (26-27 July 1999) (estimated cost: US$ 157,900).

35. The secretariat has also been engaged in consultations with the Governments of India and Iran concerning the launching of the TPN2 and TPN3, which have been tentatively scheduled for February and March 2000, respectively.

36. It is envisaged to facilitate the setting-up of the Asian Regional Coordination Unit in September 1999, at an estimated cost of US$ 43,000 for the remainder of 1999.

3. *Latin America and the Caribbean*

National level

37. Three national awareness seminars were held in the region during the period under review. These seminars were organized to provide the stimulus at the national level for the formulation and implementation of national action programmes and provided an opportunity for those concerned to share their views on the problems, but more importantly on the way forward in dealing with them. The national seminars facilitated were as follows:

(a) San Jose, Costa Rica (28-30 January). The event was specially geared to working towards the formulation of a national action programme for the country. The seminar involved all sectors of the society, including the private sector and was able to produce the broad outlines of a plan, which is now under further development;

(b) Bridgetown, Barbados (31 May-1 June). The seminar brought together all major stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, to discuss all matters relating to the question of land degradation. Papers were presented on topics ranging from water use and management, to mining and its contribution to the problem of land degradation on the island;

(c) Roseau, Dominica (7-10 June). The seminar covered issues related to existing land degradation, as well as the general subject of land use and management. It also identified key areas of concern for a future plan to deal with land degradation. A national youth forum on issues of land degradation was also organized on this occasion.

38. During the second half of 1999, there are plans to facilitate the organization of national awareness seminars in Colombia and Jamaica at an estimated cost of US$ 16,000.

Regional level

39. In May, the UNCCD facilitated the establishment of the regional coordinating unit for Latin America and the Caribbean by providing a grant for this purpose. The unit, which was set up in accordance with decision 6 of the fourth regional meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean, is responsible for the general coordination of the regional action programme.

40. During the last six months of 1999, the secretariat will provide further financial assistance to facilitate the operation of the Regional Information Network on Desertification and Drought in Latin America and the Caribbean (DESELAC). This network links the whole region and facilitates sharing of information, the hosting of workshops, and the production of an on-line news bulletin (estimated cost: US$ 25,000).

41. Moreover, it is planned to facilitate the holding of the fifth regional meeting for Parties from Latin America and the Caribbean (Lima, Peru, 9-12 August). This meeting, will among other things, review the implementation of the regional action programme, agree upon a scale of contributions for the functioning of the regional coordinating unit, and set in motion the process for the preparation of national reports to be presented at the fourth session of the Conference of Parties. More than 30 Parties from the region will participate in the meeting (estimated cost: US$ 120,000).

4. *Northern Mediterranean and other European regions*

National level

42. During the reporting period, the secretariat provided substantive support and/or financial assistance to facilitate the following activities under this heading:

(a) Preparatory activities related to the formulation of a national action programme in the Republic of Moldova;

(b) Promotion of the ratification of or accession to the Convention by nine countries of eastern and central Europe, and by two countries of western Europe;

(c) Discussion on activities to be considered in the framework of the elaboration of a national action programme in Spain (22 April 1999); and

(d) National awareness day in Estonia (19 May 1999).

43. In the second half of 1999, it is planned to provide institutional support to Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova to strengthen the role of their national focal points in coordinating national activities related to the implementation of the Convention (estimated cost: US$ 140,000).

Interregional level

44. As co-organizer with the city of Bonn and IFAD, the secretariat provided support in the preparation and organization of the World Forum of Mayors on Cities and Desertification (Bonn, Germany, 11-12 June). It also recruited a consultant to prepare a UNCCD background document and contribute as a resource person to the forum.

E. External relations and public information

1. Coordination with non-governmental organizations

45. The secretariat continues to promote grass-roots involvement in the implementation of the Convention by facilitating and coordinating activities related to the involvement of affected communities in the implementation of the Convention, as well as by promoting initiatives for dissemination of information on Convention implementation. This is done mainly in collaboration with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Grants are paid to help defray the costs of Convention-related activities and to strengthen the institutional capacity of non-governmental organizations to implement the Convention.

46. Activities and projects undertaken in 1999 which received funding from the Supplementary Fund include:

(a) A subregional non-governmental organization meeting in the North African region (Algiers, Algeria, 22-24 February 1999). This subregional meeting provided an opportunity for North African non-governmental organizations to raise awareness of the Convention process, exchange views, and coordinate their activities. The meeting was also useful in informing participants of the national action programme process and the reporting process required for the third session of the COP. The meeting identified the following priority areas for non-governmental organizations in the subregion: the need for increased awareness-raising in the region; the usefulness of the exchange of information and experience with other African subregions and the need for support to strengthen the capacity of non-governmental organizations in the region;

(b) A national non-governmental organization workshop organized by RIOD-Argentina1/ in partnership with the Government of Argentina (Cordoba, Argentina, 5 May 1999) on desertification, poverty and gender. The workshop was part of the national action programme activities of the Government and aimed to bring together representatives of the non-governmental and governmental community to discuss gender and poverty issues as they relate to desertification and to incorporate the recommendations of the workshop into the national action programme;

(c) A national non-governmental organization workshop and a regional workshop were held in Islamabad, Pakistan, 22-26 May 1999. The workshops offered organizations in the region an opportunity to brainstorm on the possibility of creating a multi-stakeholder coalition to support the implementation of the Convention in the region;

1/ RIOD = International Network of Non-Governmental Organizations on Desertification.

(d) An awareness-raising campaign undertaken simultaneously in Europe, North America, Asia and Australia to raise awareness of the importance of the Convention and the importance of continuing the ratification process. Media packets were sent to non-governmental organizations and journalists and numerous meetings, discussions and dialogues were held with parliamentarians and senators. The campaign was effective in building awareness of the Convention and placing the subject of ratification and the importance of assistance for its implementation on the priority list of numerous high-ranking officials.

(e) Institutional support to nine non-governmental organizations in Central Asia. Many of the projects supported emphasized the need for simplified local-language information materials. In addition, most activities contained a component aimed at strengthening the gender balance within the implementing organization and also in the implementation process of the project. The role of women in combating land degradation and the importance of encouraging their contribution to the national action programme was also emphasized. The minimal institutional support provided to the nine organizations enabled them to steadily build a foundation of awareness of the UNCCD process, encourage networking and exchange of information amongst all stakeholders and begin targeting non-governmental organization input to the national action programme. The support also encouraged the usage of successful methods in combating land degradation. In addition, the institutional support empowered non-governmental organizations to cultivate a productive partnership with their government counterparts and thus lay the foundation for continuing collaboration in the NAP process.

47. In the second half of 1999, it is planned to:

(a) Facilitate the participation of at least 15 non-governmental organization representatives to the general meeting of RIOD, to be held in Dakar, Senegal, in August 1999 (US$ 30,000);

(b) Assist some 10 non-governmental organizations to enhance their national-level, institutional capacity to contribute to national action programmes (US$ 100,000);

(c) Facilitate the exchange of experience and information by supporting the organization of, and the participation of non-governmental organization representatives in, two intergovernmental forums in Africa and Asia (US$ 16,000);

(d) Facilitate the exchange of experience and information on a regional level by supporting the organization of, and the participation of non-governmental organization representatives in, the intergovernmental regional meeting of Latin American countries (Lima, Peru, August 1999) (US$ 28,000);

(e) Facilitate the participation of some 60 non-governmental organizations in global level meetings, particularly the third session of the COP (COP 3) and its subsidiary bodies, including preparatory work required (Recife, 15-26 November 1999) (US$ 279,000);

(f) Assist the preparation of non-governmental organization events parallel to COP 3 and preparations for the official dialogue between non-governmental organizations and governments during COP 3 (US$ 25,000);

(g) Facilitate two workshops on the promotion of south/south and north/south non-governmental organization partnerships and thereafter the implementation of ten north/south and south/south pilot project partnerships (US$ 120,000); and

(h) Assist the preparation of studies and reports on the participatory approach, consultative mechanisms, enhancing the role of women and community awareness-raising materials (US$ 20,000).

2. Public information

48. An important activity of the secretariat is to raise and sustain public awareness of the problem of desertification and to promote the Convention and its implementation.

49. The General Assembly proclaimed 17 June as "World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought" (resolution A/49/115). Observance of this day provides a focus for the secretariat's public information activities.

50. In order to maximize and strengthen implementation activities, the secretariat continues to seek ways for the Convention to be more widely known, in both developed and developing countries, among policy and decision makers in governments, non-governmental organizations, media professionals, and specialized interest groups. Activities facilitated during the reporting period to this end were as follows:

(a) Publications and information dissemination:

(i) Publication of the first issue of the 1999 UNCCD newsletter (2,000 copies English, 1,500 copies French) in collaboration with the UNEP Information Unit on Conventions (UNEP/IUC) and made available at the end of May for distribution by mail, as well as on the occasion of UNCCD public events. In particular, it was distributed to the press, and to the participants in the Mayors' forum in Bonn (see paragraph 45 above), as well as to COP participants and other interested individuals and organizations. Now at its 11th issue, the newsletter represents the most immediate tool for the UNCCD to communicate on ongoing processes, events and initiatives related to the implementation of the Convention;

(ii) Updating and reprinting of the UNCCD kits in collaboration with UNEP/IUC: 1,500 copies of the Convention text in English, 3,000 copies of the English version of the UNCCD kit, and 1,500 copies of the Spanish version. Copies were made available at the end of May for immediate distribution on the occasion of the many seminars and public awareness initiatives organized worldwide by the secretariat, UNCCD focal points and/or non-governmental organizations;

(b) Production in German of the Lupo Alberto comics booklet (4,000 copies) to provide civil society and the media with easily accessible information on the UNCCD, its activities and mandate. Distribution of these began in Bonn on the occasion of the Mayors' Forum, the World Day to Combat Desertification, and the Fair of Opportunities;

(c) In collaboration with the Centre for International Cooperation (CIC-Bonn), publication of the German version of the entire UNCCD kit (2,500 copies), including the Convention text (1,500 copies), as well as the German version of the UNCCD *Down to Earth* booklet (2,500 copies), in order to meet the high demand from different sectors for information on the Convention. Printing of these should be completed by the end of July;

(d) Other printing and publications undertaken during the reporting period: the English version of the comics booklet (4,000 copies); new films produced to update and correct the earlier version in French, Spanish and Italian; the 1999 updated UNCCD calendar (500 copies); a poster to commemorate the World Day to Combat Desertification; UNCCD stickers (5,000 copies) bearing the UNCCD logo and wording in four languages; and a multi-purpose UNCCD stationery and card;

(e) Events, campaigns, awareness-raising initiatives.

51. The secretariat organized an informal event on the eve of the Mayors' Forum in Bonn (10 June). About 150-200 guests, including mayors and other participants, were invited to Haus Carstanjen.

52. During the second half of 1999, it is planned to:

(a) Produce the second issue of the 1999 UNCCD newsletter in collaboration with UNEP/IUC (October 1999) (US$ 5,000);

(b) Produce media fact sheets which provide background documentation on specific issues, based on the most common requests of the media (October 1999) (US$ 2,000);

(c) Produce COP 3 memorabilia, in particular the following: UNCCD bags in collaboration with Brazilian and Spanish fair trade groups; UNCCD greetings cards in collaboration with the 1997 comics artists; UNCCD calendar (US$ 30,000);

(d) Reprint UNCCD kits as required and provide for updating and revisions (US$ 35,000); and

(e) Reproduce copies of the UNCCD Azimuth videos on desertification case studies (US$ 2,000).

F. General summary

53. In summary, total expenditure projected in 1999 under the Supplementary Fund is currently estimated at **US$ 3,851,100** (US$ 4,351,700 with programme support costs), which is 48.3 per cent less than the original cost estimate of US$ 7,442,800 (US$ 8,410,400 with programme support costs) contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/2. The reduced revised estimate is attributable to the following factors: some activities contained in the cost plan were instead financed directly by donors; some activities were eventually co-financed by other United Nations agencies and programmes thus reducing the costs to the trust fund; some activities envisaged could not take place as the concerned donors needed more time to process the proposals submitted for their consideration or the level of contributions received was not enough to finance the planned activities.

III. SPECIAL FUND

(Special Fund for participation of representatives of eligible States Parties affected by desertification and/or drought in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies)

Table 5. Special Fund estimated total 1999 expenditure
(thousands of US dollars, rounded)

	Actual*/ January-June	**Projected July-December**	**Total estimated 1999**
Recorded costs	29.7	1 174.5	1 204.2
13 per cent United Nations programme support cost	3.9	152.6	156.5
Total	**33.6**	**1327.1**	**1 360.7**

54. During the reporting period, participation of eight COP Bureau members at an inter-sessional meeting (Bonn, Germany, 23-24 February) was facilitated at a cost of US$ 29,700.

55. In the second half of the year, it is planned to facilitate the participation of eligible members and delegates in the following meetings:

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*/ Based on United Nations Status of Allotment Report as at 30 June 1999 including adjustments.

(a) COP Bureau meeting (Bonn, October) (US $25,000); and

(b) Third session of the Conference of the Parties (Recife, Brazil, 15-26 November), COP and CST Bureau members and approximately 186 participants (US$ 1,149,500)).

56. Total projected expenditure under the Special Fund in 1999 is US$ 1,204,200 (US$ 1,360,700 with programme support costs) which is 34 per cent higher than the original estimate of US$ 900,000 (US$ 1,017,000) contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/2. The projected higher expenditure is mainly due to the anticipated increased number of eligible representatives from developing country Parties whose participation at COP 3 would be financed under this fund.

57. The secretariat will circulate during COP 3, as addendum 1 to this document, a list of countries whose participation has been financed through the Special Fund, together with an updated status of contributions and outstanding pledges received since the submission of this document.

*Table 6. Special Fund: contributions and outstanding pledges in 1999
(As at 16 August 1999)

Donor country/organization	Contributions (US dollars)	Outstanding pledges	
		Pledge	US dollars equivalent[a]
Canada	36 304	-	-
Norway	96 453	-	-
Norway	-	Nkr 550 000	69 270
European Community	-	Euro 62 800	65 690
Total	**132 757**	**-**	**134 960**

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[a] Using United Nations exchange rate of August 1999.

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Convention to Combat Desertification

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Agenda item 7(c)

PROGRAMME AND BUDGET

REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE TRUST FUNDS IN 1999

Note by the secretariat

Addendum

I. PARTICIPATION IN THE THIRD SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

1. Financing under the Special Fund was offered to 132 participants from the following affected developing countries for participation in the third session of the Conference of the Parties. Countries marked with an asterisk (*) are the affected least developed countries for which two representatives were financed through the Special Fund:

Algeria, Angola*, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh*, Barbados, Benin*, Botswana, Burkina Faso*, Burundi*, Cambodia*, Cameroon, Cape Verde*, Central African Republic*, Chad*, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros*, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo*, Djibouti*, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea*, Ethiopia*, Gambia*, Georgia, Ghana, Guinea*, Guinea Bissau*, Guyana, Haiti*, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic*, Lebanon, Lesotho*, Liberia*, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar*, Malawi*, Malaysia, Mali*, Mauritania*, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique*, Myanmar*, Namibia, Nepal*, Niger*, Nigeria, Niue, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda*, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe*, Senegal, Solomon Islands*, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan*, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Togo*, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu*, Uganda*, United Republic of Tanzania*, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu*, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen*, Zambia*, Zimbabwe.

2. In addition, in view of the discussions on the national reports submitted by African countries to the Conference of the Parties at its third session, two special contributions from France and Italy were received to facilitate a high level of representation by the countries concerned.

3. An estimated amount of $974,000, inclusive of programme support, was therefore committed in order to offer support to a total of 165 participants.

II. CONTRIBUTIONS AND PLEDGES RECEIVED

4. Tables 3 and 6 of document ICCD/COP(3)/3 list the contributions received and recorded for the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund as of August 1999, reflecting the latest data available prior to submission of that document for processing and distribution.

5. Revised lists of contributions and pledges received as of 16 November 1999 are now provided in tables 1 and 2 of this addendum, as follows:

(a) Table 1: Contributions received for the Supplementary Fund, either in payment of outstanding pledges already reported as at 31 August 1999, or as direct new contributions and pledges;

(b) Table 2: Contributions received for the Special Fund, either in payment of outstanding pledges already reported as at 16 August 1999, or as direct new contributions and pledges.

Table 1. Supplementary Fund: contributions and outstanding pledges in 1999
(as at 16 November 1999)

Donor country /organization	Contribution (US dollars)	Outstanding pledges	
		Pledge	US dollar equivalent *
Argentina	-	US$ 15 000	15 000
Belgium	57 445	-	-
Canada	29 598	Can$ 2 500	1 678
Chile	5 000	-	-
Denmark		US$ 25,000	25 000
Finland	55 292		
Finland	40 331		
Finland		US$100,000	100 000
France	44 344	-	-
Germany	-	DM 15 000	8 022
Italy	284 000	-	-
Italy	-	Lit 200 000 000	108 045
Italy	-	Lit 200 000 000	108 045
Italy	101 700		
Italy	109 950		
Japan	1 800 024	-	-
Mexico	20 000	-	
Netherlands	50 000	-	-
Norway	26 378	-	-
Spain	158 644	-	-
Sweden			28 980
Switzerland	409 483		
United Kingdom	30 000	-	-
United States of America	-	US$ 50 000	50 000
United States of America	55 000		
United States of America	-	US$ 100 000	100 000
IEPF	42 998	-	-
IFAD	30 000	-	-
IFAD	-	US$ 90 000	90 000
IFAD	-	US$ 70 000	70 000
OAU	100 000		

UNEP	140 000	US$ 20 000	20 000
UNEP	-	US$ 50 000	50 000
WMO	42 578	-	-
WMO	-	Sw F 18 764	12 264
Total	**3 632 765**		**787 034**

Note: IEPF = Institut de l'énergie et de l'environnement de la Francophonie
IFAD = International Fund for Agricultural Development
OAU = Organization of African Unity
UNEP = United Nations Environment Programme
WMO = World Meteorological Organization

*Table 6. Special Fund: contributions and outstanding pledges in 1999
(as at 16 November 1999)

Donor country/organization	Contribution (US dollars)	Outstanding pledges	
		Pledge	US dollars equivalent*
Canada	36 304	-	-
France		FF 700 000	113 000
Norway	96 453	-	-
Norway	69 270		-
Total	**202 027**	**-**	**113 000**

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*/ At official United Nations exchange rate for the month of October 1999.

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PROGRAMME AND BUDGET

Report on the financial performance of the Convention budget for 1999

Note by the secretariat

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Annex

Status of contributions to the core budget of the Convention for 1999 8

I. INTRODUCTION

1. By decision 6/COP.2[1]/, the Conference of the Parties (COP) approved a revised core budget for the Convention for 1999 amounting to US$ 6,100,000, including United Nations administrative overhead charges and provision for a working capital reserve. Under the terms of this decision, the COP also, *inter alia*:

(a) Took note of an offsetting contribution amounting to US$ 546,400;

(b) Decided that the Executive Secretary, for the purpose of the 1999 budget, would make savings equivalent to the special annual contribution of the Government of Germany to finance Convention events organized by the secretariat, in calculating the contributions of Parties to the 1999 budget in a manner that the amount to be shared among the Parties would total US$ 4,956,800 as the Parties had already budgeted for 1999;

(c) Requested the Executive Secretary to continue negotiations with the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the issue of an allotment of overhead for the financing of additional posts or activities in the administrative area of the secretariat;

(d) Approved the staffing table for the secretariat under the 1999 core budget, comprising 21 posts in the Professional and higher categories and 11 posts in the General Service category;

(e) Authorized the Executive Secretary to make transfers between each of the main appropriation lines up to an aggregate limit of 15 per cent of the total estimated expenditure for a given year for those appropriation lines, provided that in the process no appropriation line was reduced by more than 25 per cent;

(f) Requested the Executive Secretary to report to COP 3 on the financial performance of the Convention budget for 1999; and

(g) Invited Parties to the Convention to pay promptly and in full the contributions required to finance approved expenditures as offset by the voluntary contribution from the Government of Germany.

2. Pursuant to the above decision, the Executive Secretary submits this progress report on the financial performance of the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification for the year 1999. This document describes the performance of the first yearly budget of the Convention which is in its seventh month of execution. The report for the full year will be more comprehensive and contain all relevant tables.

1/ For the full text of decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its second session, see document ICCD/COP(2)/14/Add.1.

3. The present document reports on:

(a) Actual income received under the Special Account for the Core Budget of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (referred to as the "General Fund" for the Convention under paragraph 7 of the UNCCD Financial Rules, hereunder also referred to interchangeably as the core budget account); and

(b) An estimation of the total projected 1999 expenditures of the secretariat under the General Fund. Projected expenditures are based on actual expenditures incurred during the first seven months of 1999 (latest official expenditure report available at time of document submission) and estimated expenditures for the remaining months of 1999.

4. In reviewing this report, the following should be taken into consideration:

(a) That while a budget of US$ 6,100,000 was approved, total funds to be made available to the secretariat in 1999 were limited to US$ 4,956,800 from indicative contributions (as indicated in paragraph 1(b) above), plus the DM 1 million (US$ 601,383 at the January 1999 United Nations official rate of exchange) from the special contribution from Germany to the core budget, making a grand total of US$ 5,558,183 (or US$ 4,541,800 for all the programmes, net of programme support costs and working capital reserve); and

(b) That the COP requested the secretariat to further absorb, within existing resources, the financial implications of decision 12/COP.2 on the work programme of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) and decision 14/COP.2 on traditional knowledge.

5. The report on the financial performance of the Global Mechanism will be provided separately by the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

II. GENERAL FUND

(Special Account for the Core Budget of the UNCCD)

A. Report on income

6. The status of contributions to the UNCCD General Fund core budget account is shown in the annex and can be summarized as follows:

Contributions to the core budget:	
Parties	US$ 4,822,904
Special contribution from Germany to the core budget (DM 1,000,000)	US$ 601,383
Total contributions received	US$ 5,424,287

7. As of 30 September 1999, 54 Parties had paid their contributions. Of the total amount of indicative contributions received (US$ 4,822,904), it is estimated that US$ 407,704 represent overpayments as a consequence of the reductions in amounts ultimately due with the increase in the number of Parties to the Convention. These will be credited against future contributions. Indicative contributions outstanding from 99 country Parties total US$ 542,250. The Executive Secretary trusts that all Parties which have not yet paid their contributions in full will do so without further delay. The annex to this document will be updated in document ICCD/COP(3)/4/Add.1 to reflect contributions received after submission of this document.

8. Total income for 1999 under the core budget account, including interest income, will only be available in the year 2000 and will be contained in a final audited statement of account for 1999 and provided to the COP at its fourth session.

B. Report on expenditures

9. Excluding the programme support cost, the overall programme expenses incurred for the first seven months and projections for the remaining months of 1999 are expected to be 91.1 per cent of the approved budget for programmes of US$ 4,984,500 (total approved budget is US$ 6,100,000: US$ 4,984,500 for programmes, US$ 648,000 for administrative overhead charges or programme support costs and US$ 467,500 for working capital reserve, decision 6/COP.2 refers). To comply with the request of the COP to realize savings, the secretariat is exerting efforts to limit its 1999 total programme expenditures to US$ 4,541,800 (exclusive of programme support costs and working capital reserve). However, this will be feasible mainly because of the fact that the secretariat is in its initial year of operation and the post vacancy rate due to the delayed recruitment has been much higher than under normal circumstances. (At the time of the move to Bonn, 14 of the 32 core posts were vacant). Apart from direct savings in salaries and related costs, the high vacancy rate is projected to result in further savings in general operating expenditure, which is directly linked to the number of staff on board, i.e. the share of the UNCCD in the costs of the common maintenance and other services in Haus Carstanjen is expected to be significantly lower.

10. The savings attributable to the high vacancy rate, however, are not enough. To arrive at the required level of savings requested by the COP under the core budget account, the secretariat, whenever possible, is obliged to: (a) raise and use voluntary contributions under the UNCCD trust fund accounts, i.e. the Supplementary Fund, the Bonn Fund, and the Special Fund, to meet requests for assistance received from country Parties; (b) use the programme support account (see paragraph 18 below); and (c) impose very strict control over the use of the core budget funds.

C. Policy-making organ

11. Expenditure under this programme is projected to be at 100 per cent of approved budget to finance travel expenses of the technical secretariat staff from United Nations Headquarters in New York to Recife, Brazil to service the third session of the Conference of the Parties and for hospitality costs in connection with that session.

D. Executive direction and management

12. Total expenditure of this programme will represent 102.3 per cent of the approved budget. Savings due to delayed recruitment to fill vacancies enabled this programme to meet the requirements for consultancies and the demand for travel inherent in the executive direction and management office. Consultancies relate primarily to expert services required to raise awareness and to facilitate the ratification or accession process in countries that are still not Parties to the Convention. Travel costs relate to missions undertaken by the Executive Secretary and the Deputy Executive Secretary for consultations with government authorities, donors, intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations on issues of relevance to the Convention, for participation in activities of specialized agencies and United Nations programmes concerned with issues related to the UNCCD, and for attendance at meetings of the United Nations General Assembly.

E. Substantive support to the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies

13. Total expenditure of 95.1 per cent of the approved budget is projected under this programme, reflecting an estimated net savings of 4.9 per cent. Net savings under this programme were realized under: (a) salaries (due to the delayed recruitment factor); (b) travel of staff (by limiting the number of missions under the core budget account to the most essential); and (c) contractual services (by reducing the languages of interpretation provided). These savings enabled the UNCCD to finance part of the costs related to the work of the ad hoc panel of experts on traditional knowledge (e.g. consultancy, interpretation), for which no provision was made in the core budget. The other resource requirements for this programme were met from voluntary contributions under the Supplementary Fund and the Bonn Fund.

F. Facilitation of implementation and coordination

14. Total expenditure of 90.1 per cent of the approved budget is projected under this programme, reflecting an estimated net saving of 9.9 per cent. Expenses under this heading relate primarily to salaries and related costs and to some travel of staff to attend Convention-related meetings. Savings under this programme are mainly attributable to the fact that consultancy and travel of staff to participate in activities organized by the UNCCD in the different regions were included in the cost plans for those activities and financed by earmarked voluntary contributions

under the Supplementary Fund. Some savings also resulted from the delayed recruitment.

G. External relations and public information

15. Total expenditure of 93.7 per cent of the approved budget is projected under this programme, reflecting an estimated net saving of 6.3 per cent. Expenses under this heading concern principally staff-related costs and travel in connection with inter-agency coordination activities: attendance at meetings of and consultations with the United Nations in New York, specialized agencies and related Conventions. Savings under this programme are mainly due to the lower estimated common staff cost rate than that used in the budget, which was partly offset by the higher-than-projected travel requirements. Resource requirements for the programme's work on coordination with non-governmental organizations, public awareness, and information services were mostly financed from earmarked voluntary contributions under the Supplementary Fund and the Bonn Fund.

H. Administration and finance

16. Total expenditure of 82.0 per cent of the approved budget is projected under this programme, reflecting a net saving of 18 per cent. Funds under this heading were used for salaries and related costs of the unit's staff, temporary assistance required by the secretariat in general, administration and finance-related travel and general operating expenses of the UNCCD: i.e. for communication (telephone, fax, postage, pouches) in Bonn and liaison with New York, Geneva and Rome as well as rental and maintenance of UNCCD office premises, supplies, materials, and rental and maintenance of photocopy and fax equipment. In consultation with the United Nations Office at Geneva, the secretariat is putting in place a new internal financial tracking system. This system will provide the UNCCD secretariat with up-to-date reports on the status of the use of funds received under the core budget account and all the other UNCCD trust fund accounts and will greatly facilitate accurate and more timely financial reporting by the secretariat.

17. Savings under this programme are attributable principally to the lower-than-projected cost of contributing to joint services in Haus Carstanjen (e.g. to the costs of security, cleaning, repair and maintenance, utilities, postal and pouch facilities, telephone exchange services, and third party insurance) which, to a large extent, is pro-rated to the number of actual personnel. Savings were also realized as a consequence of delayed recruitment and the use of the programme support account to meet other staffing and operating requirements (see paragraph 18 below).

I. Programme support costs

18. Programme support income from the core budget has allowed the secretariat to finance three General Service posts and to cover part of the costs related to communication and rental and maintenance of equipment. In addition, the Executive Secretary is in contact with the relevant United Nations department in order to secure additional funds from programme support income.

J. Working capital reserve

19. Paragraph 8 of the UNCCD Financial Rules (decision 2/COP.1) states that: "Within the General Fund there shall be maintained a working capital reserve at a level to be determined from time to time by the Conference of the Parties by consensus. The purpose of the working capital reserve shall be to ensure the continuity of operations in the event of a temporary shortfall of cash. Drawdowns from the working capital reserve shall be restored from contributions as soon as possible."

20. At its first session, the COP decided the working capital reserve maintained within the General Fund to set at a level of 8.3 per cent of core budget expenditure, including overhead charges (decision 6/COP.1, para.7).

21. A proportionate amount of the contributions received has been set aside to maintain the working capital reserve at 8.3 per cent of expenditure. The level of reserve remaining at the end of the year (currently estimated at US$ 425,900) will be used as part of the required reserve for the year 2000. It is hoped that no drawdown from the working capital reserve will be required.

Annex

STATUS OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CORE BUDGET OF THE CONVENTION FOR 1999
(as of 20 September 1999)
(US dollars)

Party[1]	Estimated 1999 contribution[2]	Contribution received as of 30/9/99	Outstanding contribution	Carry-over balance (overpaid)
1. Afghanistan*	200.0		200.0	
2. Algeria	6 690.0		6 690.0	
3. Angola*	500.0		500.0	
4. Antigua and Barbuda	150.0	200.0		50.0
5. Argentina	72 860.0		72 860.0	
6. Armenia	790.0		790.0	
7. Austria	66 970.0	67 460.0		490.0
8. Azerbaijan	1 540.0		1 540.0	
9. Bahrain	1 190.0	1 682.5		492.5
10. Bangladesh*	500.0		500.0	
11. Barbados	590.0	700.0		110.0
12. Belgium	78 520.0		78 520.0	
13. Belize	50.0		50.0	
14. Benin*	150.0		150.0	
15. Bolivia	500.0		500.0	
16. Botswana	740.0	900.0		160.0
17. Brazil	104 640.0		104 640.0	
18. Burkina Faso*	150.0	150.0		
19. Burundi*	50.0		50.0	
20. Cambodia*	50.0	50.0		
21. Cameroon	940.0		940.0	
22. Canada	195 990.0	197 530.0		1 540.0
23. Cape Verde*	150.0		150.0	
24. Central African Republic*	50.0		50.0	
25. Chad	50.0		50.0	
26. Chile	9 320.0	9 370.0		50.0
27. China	69 250.0	69 775.0		525.0
28. Colombia	7 730.0		7 730.0	
29. Comoros*	50.0		50.0	
30. Cook Islands	50.0		50.0	
31. Costa Rica	1 140.0		1 140.0	
32. Côte d'Ivoire	640.0		640.0	
33. Cuba	1 880.0		1 880.0	
34. Democratic Republic of the Congo*	500.0		500.0	
35. Denmark	49 220.0	68 000.0		18 780.0
36. Djibouti*	50.0		50.0	
37. Dominica	50.0		50.0	
38. Dominican Republic	1 090.0		1 090.0	
39. Ecuador	1 390.0		1 390.0	
40. Egypt	4 610.0	4 710.0		100.0

Party	Estimated 1999 contribution[1]	Contribution received as of 30/9/99	Outstanding contribution	Carry-over balance (overpaid)
41. El Salvador	840.0		840.0	
42. Equatorial Guinea*	50.0		50.0	
43. Eritrea*	50.0		50.0	
44. Ethiopia*	400.0		400.0	
45. European Community	123 920.0	124 700.0		780.0
45. Fiji	250.0		250.0	
46. Finland	38 610.0		38 610.0	
47. France	465 490.0	643 300.0		177 810.0
48. Gabon	1 090.0		1 090.0	
49. Gambia*	50.0		50.0	
50. Germany	698 070.0	706 200.0		8 130.0
51. Ghana	500.0		500.0	
52. Greece	24 980.0	25 000.0		20.0
53. Grenada	50.0		50.0	
54. Guatemala	1 290.0		1 290.0	
55. Guinea*	200.0		200.0	
56. Guinea-Bissau*	50.0		50.0	
57. Guyana	50.0		50.0	
58. Haiti*	150.0		150.0	
59. Honduras	200.0	461.0		261.0
60. Iceland	2 280.0	2 280.0		
61. India	21 310.0	21 439.0		129.9
62. Indonesia	13 090.0	13 190.0		100.0
63. Iran (Islamic Republic of)	13 730.0		13 730.0	
64. Ireland	15 960.0	22 000.0		6 040.0
65. Israel	24 590.0	24 730.0		140.0
66. Italy	386 630.0	389 600.0		2 970.0
67. Jamaica	400.0		400.0	
68. Japan	1 239 200.0	1 246 600.0		7 400.0
69. Jordan	400.0	600.0		200.0
70. Kazakhstan	4 660.0		4 660.0	
71. Kenya	500.0		500.0	
72. Kiribati	50.0		50.0	
73. Kuwait	9 570.0		9 570.0	
74. Kyrgyzstan	590.0		590.0	
75. Lao People's Democratic Republic*	50.0		50.0	
76. Lebanon	1 140.0		1 140.0	
77. Lesotho	150.0		150.0	
78. Liberia*	150.0		150.0	
79. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	9 420.0		9 420.0	
80. Luxembourg	4 810.0	4 910.0		100.0
81. Madagascar*	200.0	266.0		66.0
82. Malawi*	150.0	200.0		50.0
83. Malaysia	12 840.0	12 940.0		100.0
84. Mali*	150.0		150.0	
85. Malta	990.0	970.0	20.0	
86. Marshall Islands	50.0	50.0		

Party[1]	Estimated 1999 contribution[2]	Contribution received as of 30/9/99	Outstanding contribution	Carry-o balan (overpa
87. Mauritania•	50.0	100.0		
88. Mauritius	640.0	800.0		16
89. Mexico	69 790.0		69 790.0	
90. Micronesia (Federated States of)	50.0	100.0		
91. Monaco	250.0		250.0	
92. Mongolia	150.0		150.0	
93. Morocco	2 920.0	4 000.0		1 08
94. Mozambique•	50.0		50.0	
95. Myanmar•	500.0		500.0	
96. Namibia	500.0	550.0		
97. Nauru	50.0		50.0	
98. Nepal•	250.0	300.0		
99. Netherlands	116 090.0	116 800.0		71
100. Nicaragua	50.0		50.0	
101. Niger•	150.0	150.0		
102. Nigeria	2 870.0		2 870.0	
103. Niue	50.0		50.0	
104. Norway	43 420.0	60 000.0		18 58
105. Oman	3 620.0	3 670.0		
106. Pakistan	4 210.0		4 210.0	
107. Palau•	50.0		50.0	
108. Panama	940.0		940.0	
109. Paraguay	990.0		990.0	
110. Peru	6 740.0		6 740.0	
111. Portugal	29 640.0	29 890.0		25
112. Qatar	2 330.0		2 330.0	
113. Republic of Moldova	1 290.0		1 290.0	
114. Romania	4 760.0		4 760.0	
115. Rwanda•	50.0		50.0	
116. Saint Kitts and Nevis	50.0		50.0	
117. Saint Lucia	50.0		50.0	
118. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	50.0		50.0	
119. Samoa•	50.0		50.0	
120. Sao Tome and Principe•	50.0		50.0	
121. Saudi Arabia	40 500.0		40 500.0	
122. Senegal	400.0		400.0	
123. Seychelles	150.0		150.0	
124. Sierra Leone•	50.0		50.0	
125. Singapore	12 540.0		12 540.0	
126. Solomon Islands	50.0		50.0	
127. South Africa	26 020.0	36 000.0		9 98
128. Spain	184 290.0	254 700.0		70 41
129. Sri Lanka	840.0		840.0	
130. Sudan•	500.0		500.0	
131. Swaziland	150.0	200.0		
132. Sweden	77 130.0	106 700.0		29 57

Party[1]	Estimated 1999 contribution[2]	Contribution received as of 30/9/99	Outstanding contribution	Carry-over balance (overpaid)
133. Switzerland	86 500.0	119 500.0		33 000.0
134. Syrian Arab Republic	4 560.0	6 300.0		1 740.0
135. Tajikistan	350.0		350.0	
136. Togo*	50.0		50.0	
137. Tonga	50.0		50.0	
138. Tunisia	1 980.0	2 700.0		720.0
139. Turkey	31 330.0	31 570.0		240.0
140. Turkmenistan	590.0		590.0	
141. Tuvalu	50.0		50.0	
142. Uganda*	250.0		250.0	
143. United Arab Emirates	12 690.0	12 716.0		26.0
144. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	362 240.0	385 070.0		2 830.0
145. United Republic of Tanzania*	200.0		200.0	
146. Uruguay	3 420.0		3 420.0	
147. Uzbekistan	2 630.0	10 485.0		7 855.0
148. Venezuela	12 540.0		12 540.0	
149. Viet Nam	500.0		500.0	
150. Yemen*	500.0		500.0	
151. Zambia*	150.0		150.0	
152. Zimbabwe	640.0	640.0		
Total from Parties	4 956 870.0	4 822 904.5	536 010.0	402 044.5
Voluntary contribution from Germany (DM)	601 383.0	601 383.0		
Total funds for the core budget	**5 658 253.0**	**5 424 287.5**	**536 010.0**	**402 044.5**

(Total "estimated 1999 contribution" add up to US$ 4,956,870 due to rounding to the nearest ten dollars).

[1] Including States and regional economic integration organizations that are Parties to the Convention as of 30 September 1999.

* Least developed country.

[2] Estimated 1999 contributions (US$ 4,956,800) are based on the portion of the approved core budget for 1999 of US$ 6,100,000 to be shared among the Parties (decision 6/COP.2).

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PROGRAMME AND BUDGET

Report on the financial performance of the Convention budget for 1999

Note by the secretariat

Addendum

1. As indicated in paragraph 7 of document ICCD/COP(3)/4, an updated annex on the status of contributions to the core budget of the Convention for 1999 has been prepared to reflect all contributions received as of 15 November 1999 and includes countries that have become Parties since 20 September, 1999.

2. Contributions due from Parties have been adjusted accordingly. Contributions of countries that became parties after 1 January were established pro rata temporis for the balance of the year.

GE.99-70769

Annex

STATUS OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CORE BUDGET OF THE CONVENTION FOR 1999
(as of 15 November 1999)
(US dollars)

Party[1]	Estimated 1999 contribution[2]	Contribution received as of 15/11/99	Outstanding contribution	Carry-over balance (overpaid)
1. Afghanistan*	200.0		200.0	
2. Algeria	6 690.0		6 690.0	
3. Angola*	500.0		500.0	
4. Antigua and Barbuda	150.0	200.0		50.0
5. Argentina	73 060.0	73 410.0		350.0
6. Armenia	790.0		790.0	
7. Austria	67 160.0	67 460.0		300.0
8. Azerbaijan	1 590.0		1 590.0	
9. Bahrain	1 240.0	1 682.5		442.5
10. Bangladesh*	500.0		500.0	
11. Barbados	590.0	700.0		110.0
12. Belgium	78 660.0		78 660.0	
13. Belize	50.0		50.0	
14. Benin*	150.0		150.0	
15. Bolivia	500.0		500.0	
16. Botswana	740.0	900.0		160.0
17. Brazil	104 890.0		104 890.0	
18. Burkina Faso*	150.0	150.0		
19. Burundi*	50.0		50.0	
20. Cambodia*	50.0	50.0		
21. Cameroon	940.0		940.0	
22. Canada	196 540.0	197 530.0		990.0
23. Cape Verde*	150.0		150.0	
24. Central African Republic*	50.0		50.0	
25. Chad	50.0		50.0	
26. Chile	9 370.0	9 370.0		
27. China	69 440.0	69 775.0		335.0
28. Colombia	860.0		860.0	
29. Comoros*	50.0		50.0	
30. Congo	50.0		50.0	
31. Cook Islands	50.0		50.0	
32. Costa Rica	1 140.0		1 140.0	
33. Côte d'Ivoire	640.0		640.0	
34. Cuba	1 830.0		1 830.0	
35. Democratic Republic of the Congo*	500.0		500.0	
36. Denmark	49 320.0	68 000.0		18 680.0
37. Djibouti*	50.0		50.0	
38. Dominica	50.0		50.0	
39. Dominican Republic	1 040.0		1 040.0	
40. Ecuador	1 440.0		1 440.0	
41. Egypt	4 660.0	4 710.0		50.0

Party	Estimated 1999 contribution	Contribution received as of 15/11/99	Outstanding contribution	Carry-over balance (overpaid)
42. El Salvador	840.0		840.0	
43. Equatorial Guinea•	50.0		50.0	
44. Eritrea•	50.0		50.0	
45. Ethiopia•	450.0		450.0	
46. European Community	123 920.0	124 700.0		780.0
47. Fiji	250.0		250.0	
48. Finland	38 660.0	38 810.0		150.0
49. France	466 630.0	643 300.0		176 670.0
50. Gabon	1 040.0		1 040.0	
51. Gambia•	50.0		50.0	
52. Georgia	230.0		230.0	
53. Germany	699 850.0	706 200.0		6 350.0
54. Ghana	500.0		500.0	
55. Greece	25 030.0	25 000.0	30.0	
56. Grenada	50.0		50.0	
57. Guatemala	1 290.0		1 290.0	
	200.0		200.0	
58. Guinea•	50.0		50.0	
59. Guinea-Bissau•	50.0		50.0	
60. Guyana	150.0		150.0	
61. Haiti•	200.0	461.0		261.0
62. Honduras	2 140.0	-	2 140.0	
63. Hungary	2 280.0	2 280.0		
64. Iceland	21 360.0	21 439.0		79.0
65. India	13 090.0	13 190.0		100.0
66. Indonesia	13 780.0		13 780.0	
67. Iran (Islamic Republic of)	15 960.0	22 000.0		6 040.0
68. Ireland	24 640.0	24 730.0		90.0
69. Israel	387 620.0	389 600.0		1 980.0
70. Italy	450.0		450.0	
71. Jamaica	1 239 200.0	1 246 600.0		7 400.0
72. Japan	450.0	600.0		150.0
73. Jordan	4 710.0		4 710.0	
74. Kazakhstan	500.0		500.0	
75. Kenya	50.0		50.0	
76. Kiribati	9 570.0		9 570.0	
77. Kuwait	590.0		590.0	
78. Kyrgyzstan	50.0		50.0	
79. Lao People's Democratic Republic•	1 140.0		1 140.0	
80. Lebanon	150.0		150.0	
81. Lesotho	150.0		150.0	
82. Liberia•	9 420.0		9 420.0	
83. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	4 860.0	4 910.0		50.0
84. Luxembourg	200.0	266.0		66.0
85. Madagascar•	150.0	200.0		50.0
86. Malawi•	12 840.0	12 940.0		100.0
87. Malaysia	150.0		150.0	
88. Mali•	990.0	970.0	20.0	
89. Malta	50.0	50.0		
90. Marshall Islands				

Party	Estimated 1999 contribution	Contribution received as of 15/11/99	Outstanding contribution	Carry-bala (over
91. Mauritania•	50.0	100.0		
92. Mauritius	640.0	800.0		
93. Mexico	69 890.0		69 890.0	
94. Micronesia (Federated States of)	50.0	100.0		
95. Monaco	140.0		140.0	
96. Mongolia	150.0		150.0	
97. Morocco	2 920.0	4 000.0		1
98. Mozambique•	50.0		50.0	
99. Myanmar•	500.0		500.0	
100. Namibia	500.0	550.0		
101. Nauru	50.0		50.0	
102. Nepal•	250.0	300.0		
103. Netherlands	116 340.0	116 800.0		
104. Nicaragua	50.0		50.0	
105. Niger•	150.0	150.0		
106. Nigeria	2 870.0		2 870.0	
107. Niue	50.0		50.0	
108. Norway	43 520.0	60 000.0		16
109. Oman	3 670.0	3 670.0		
110. Pakistan	4 210.0		4 210.0	
111. Palau•	50.0		50.0	
112. Panama	940.0	1 300.0		
113. Paraguay	990.0		990.0	
114. Peru	6 740.0		6 740.0	
115. Portugal	29 740.0	29 890.0		
116. Qatar	1 390.0		1 390.0	
117. Republic of Korea	591.0		591.0	
118. Republic of Moldova	750.0		750.0	
119. Romania	4 760.0		4 760.0	
120. Rwanda•	50.0		50.0	
121. Saint Kitts and Nevis	50.0		50.0	
122. Saint Lucia	50.0		50.0	
123. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	50.0		50.0	
124. Samoa•	50.0		50.0	
125. San Marino	20.0		20.0	
126. Sao Tome and Principe•	50.0		50.0	
127. Saudi Arabia	40 600.0		40 600.0	
128. Senegal	450.0		450.0	
129. Seychelles	150.0		150.0	
130. Sierra Leone•	50.0		50.0	
131. Singapore	5 250.0		5 250.0	
132. Solomon Islands•	50.0		50.0	
133. South Africa	26 120.0	36 000.0		9
134. Spain	184 740.0	254 700.0		69
135. Sri Lanka	700.0		700.0	
136. Sudan•	450.0		450.0	
137. Swaziland	150.0	200.0		
138. Sweden	77 380.0	106 700.0		29

Party	Estimated 1999 contribution	Contribution received as of 15/11/99	Outstanding contribution	Carry-over balance (overpaid)
139. Switzerland	86 690.0	119 500.0		32 810.0
140. Syrian Arab Republic	4 560.0	6 300.0		1 740.0
141. Tajikistan	350.0		350.0	
142. Togo*	50.0		50.0	
143. Tonga	50.0		50.0	
144. Tunisia	2 030.0	2 700.0		670.0
145. Turkey	31 380.0	31 570.0		190.0
146. Turkmenistan	590.0		590.0	
147. Tuvalu*	50.0		50.0	
148. Uganda*	250.0		250.0	
149. United Arab Emirates	12 690.0	12 716.0		26.0
150. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	363 180.0	365 070.0		1 890.0
151. United Republic of Tanzania*	200.0		200.0	
152. Uruguay	2 000.0		2 000.0	
153. Uzbekistan	2 630.0	10 485.0		7 855.0
154. Vanuatu*	50.0		50.0	
155. Venezuela	12 590.0		12 590.0	
156. Viet Nam	500.0		500.0	
157. Yemen*	500.0		500.0	
158. Zambia*	150.0		150.0	
159. Zimbabwe	640.0	640.0		
Total from Parties	4 956 870.0	4 936 424.5	415 510.0	395 064.5
Voluntary contribution from Germany (DM)	601 383.0	601 383.0		
Total funds for the core budget	**5 558 253.0**	**5 537 807.5**	**415 510.0**	**395 064.5**

(Total "estimated 1999 contribution" add up to US$ 4,956,870 due to rounding to the nearest ten dollars).

[1] Including States and regional economic integration organizations that are Parties to the Convention as of 31 December 1999.

* Least developed country.

[2] Estimated 1999 contributions (US$ 4,956,800) are based on the portion of the approved core budget for 1999 of US$ 6,100,000 to be shared among the Parties (decision 6/COP.2).

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Item 7 of the provisional agenda

PROGRAMME AND BUDGET

Report on the financial performance of the Convention budget for 1999

Note by the secretariat

Addendum

1. By decision 6/COP.2, the Executive Secretary was requested to report to the Conference of the Parties at its third session, on the financial performance of the Convention budget for 1999.

2. Annexed herewith is the report on the financial performance of the Global Mechanism budget for 1999[1/], as received from the International Fund for Agricultural Development on 13 October 1999, for consideration by the COP.

1/ The report is reproduced without formal editing by the Convention secretariat.

The attached budget table provides information on the developments in the Global Mechanism budget in 1999. The budget has been revised twice, as indicated. Cumulative commitments at 31 August 1999 are shown, together with projected expenditure and the projected balance at 31 December 1999. Cumulative expenditure at 31 August 1999 was 37 per cent and total projected expenditure at year-end is estimated at 92 per cent.

The table also indicates savings made on staff budget lines (39 per cent on Professional staff and 44 per cent on General Service staff). These savings are due to the fact that the recruitment process for professional staff has taken considerably more time than originally anticipated. The recruitment of General Service staff is, of course, related to the recruitment of Professional staff, hence the saving on that budget line is a direct consequence of the lengthy recruitment process for Professional staff.

Reallocations with respect to the original budget have mostly been from the "staff cost" component of the budget to "professional consultants' fees" and "media, communications and networking". These two budget lines have increased by 311 and 386 per cent respectively, compared to the original budget estimate.

As regards "professional consultants' fees", the funds have been reallocated to support the development of the subregional action programme for West Asia, and for consultancies to assist the office of the Global Mechanism in developing the database, the debt initiative and the formulation of national desertification funds. Further support to the International NGO Network on Desertification and Drought (RIOD) in developing its active participation in the Convention process, based on discussions at the RIOD global meeting and consultations between RIOD and the Global Mechanism, may be charged against this budget line before year-end.

As regards the increase in the budget line "media, communications and networking", funds have been allocated to support the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel in moving from the planning to the implementation phase of the subregional action programme for West Africa. Two harmonization workshops aiming at synchronizing the national action programmes of Burkina Faso and Senegal with the Soil Fertility Initiative, supported by the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and others, have also been financed from this budget line. It has also been used to support the RIOD global meeting, a workshop organized by the office to Combat Desertification and Drought on climate and drought forecasting, the FIDAmerica Computerised Conference and the production of a pamphlet on the Global Mechanism.

The budget shows a positive balance at year-end of US$ 68,509. Given that 1999 is the first year of Global Mechanism operations, the time required for staff recruitment and the inevitable time allocated to the development of the Global Mechanism's operational strategy and the setting-up of its operations, its absorptive capacity has been limited. As the Global Mechanism starts its second year with many of the basic prerequisites for efficient operation in place, the absorptive capacity for the year 2000 will, logically, be considerably higher. The budget estimates that have been submitted for the years 2000 and 2001 reflect the above, which may be viewed as a normal development for a newly established institution.

GM 1999 ORIGINAL APPROVED BUDGET / 1999 2nd REVISED BUDGET FOR APPROVAL				
BUDGET ITEMS	1999 Original Approved Budget USD	1st Revised Reallocations	Final Revised Reallocations	Final Revised Budget (to be approved) USD
1. STAFF COSTS				
Regular and Fixed Term Staff				
Professional				
Managing Director, D2-Step 1	153,636	10,000	(1,300)	162,336
Senior Programme Manager, P5	101,592	(45,152)	(15,400)	41,040
SPO Relocation/Recruitment Costs	40,635	(20,635)	(7,900)	12,100
Financial Analyst/Systems Manager, P4	72,520	(18,130)	(22,300)	32,090
FA/SM Relocation/Recruitment Costs	32,653	(19)	(9,500)	23,134
Programme Development Officer, P4	54,390	(18,130)	(36,260)	0
PDO Relocation/Recruitment Costs	32,634		(7,600)	25,034
Sub-Total Professional Allocation	**488,060**	**(92,066)**	**(100,260)**	**295,734**
General Service				
Administrative Assistant, G6 (G4)	74,090	(14,690)	(17,500)	41,900
Secretary to SPM, G4	44,550	(17,376)	(10,000)	17,174
Overtime		7,000	0	7,000
Sub-Total General Service Allocation	**118,640**	**(25,066)**	**(27,500)**	**66,074**
Temporary Support Allocation				
Professional Consultants' Fees	45,000	68,000	27,000	140,000
General Service	40,000	(3,000)	(13,500)	23,500
Sub-Total Temporary Support	**85,000**	**65,000**	**13,500**	**163,500**
TOTAL STAFF COSTS	**691,700**	**(52,132)**	**(114,260)**	**525,308**
3. OFFICE AND GENERAL EXPENSES				
(a) External Auditors' Fees & Expenses			5,000	5,000
(b) Office Equipment and Maintenance	20,000		0	20,000
(c) Hospitality	2,300	200	0	2,500
Sub-Total Office and General Expenses	**22,300**	**200**	**5,000**	**27,500**
4. OTHER OPERATIONAL EXPENSES				
(a) Duty Travel	140,000	2,000	0	142,000
(b) Media, Communications & Networking	36,000	42,000	61,000	139,000
(c) Publications	10,000	7,932	(7,248)	10,684
Sub-Total Other Operational Expenses	**186,000**	**51,932**	**53,752**	**291,684**
CONTINGENCY	100,000		(31,492)	68,508
TOTAL	**1,000,000**	**0**	**(87,000)**	**913,000**
Administration and Systems Support 8% of USD 913 000				**73,040**

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

Review of the implementation of the Convention, including support to regional action programmes

Note by the secretariat

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Annex

Major national, subregional and regional meetings with secretariat involvement, autumn 1998 - autumn 1999 12

GE.99-65525

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its second session, the Conference on the Parties (COP) had before it document ICCD/COP(2)/5, which reported on activities relating to implementation of the Convention which the secretariat had supported or in which the secretariat had participated during the period from August 1997 to July 1998. This present note provides information on measures undertaken by the secretariat for the period from September 1998 to September 1999 to ensure continued support to the affected Parties. Such measures took the form of financial and technical assistance which was mostly secured through contributions to the Trust Fund established under General Assembly resolution 47/188. Programmes developed by the Parties at the national, subregional and regional levels have, in many cases, reached the stage of formulation where financing resources must be brought in through the conclusion of partnership arrangements.

2. Progress in this initial phase of the implementation process has been slower than some might have expected, due to the complexity of managing a cross-sectoral and participatory programming exercise. At the national level, focal points have been institutionalized and they spearhead further arrangements to improve awareness and coordination of the implementation of the Convention process, which is yet to receive the full attention of some important ministries. National focal points backed by national coordinating committees also strive in many cases to encourage and broaden the involvement of the civil society. Focal points are further facing the need to review the linkages with other strategic programming frameworks for sustainable development and to mobilize a critical level of resources. National forums were held in a number of countries with the assistance of the United Nations system and a round table was held in Mali in March 1999. It is important to plan a forthcoming cycle of round tables to address the financial needs of national action programmes (NAPs) in other countries.

3. The bulk of activities clearly took place at the national level and some countries reported progress in setting up an enabling framework for the UNCCD including scientific and technological support; legislative measures; preferential policies on tax systems, land use and ownership; or support to decentralized management and privatization. At the international level (subregional, regional and interregional), Parties seek economies of scale by building interregional cooperation platforms or designing thematic programme networks but the participation of interested scientific institutions from developed country Parties and financial support are yet to fully materialize.

4. The information shared by the secretariat in this note represents only a partial account of the implementation process. It is meant to complete the assessment made by the Parties, concerned international organizations and the non-governmental community. It focuses on specific activities in which the secretariat made a contribution either by participation or through financial support. It does not give a comprehensive picture of the status of implementation of the Convention

or overall trends in implementation. On the whole, the experience gained during the interim period and spelled out in paragraph 4 of document ICCD/COP(2)/5 is being confirmed: affected country Parties will need to streamline the multiple strategic planning frameworks for the management of natural resources; they will invite a more articulate response, at country level, from multilateral institutions and donor agencies and seek partnership arrangements to secure the necessary financial support; they will continue to explore ways and means to deliver resources more directly to the local level, using as far as possible the UNCCD as a synergistic framework for bringing the implementation process of the other sustainable development conventions (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)) to the grassroots level.

II. MEASURES TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION IN AFRICA

5. All African countries have now ratified the Convention, which definitely demonstrates the commitment of Africa to the UNCCD process. The national reports which have to be submitted to COP 3 by African country Parties give a precise idea of the measures which have been taken for the implementation of the Convention (see ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.2).

6. At the national level, all African countries are engaged in the process of preparing and implementing national action programmes, being at various stages of activities: information and awareness-raising, country-wide consultative process, national forum, and adoption and implementation of the programme.

7. In the field of information and awareness-raising, various strategies have been applied together to inform and sensitize stakeholders. National awareness-raising seminars have been organized in about 40 countries, followed by awareness campaigns, consultative workshops and seminars at various levels, and educational material has been introduced. UNCCD material has been translated into local languages, and posters, drama and songs for community level actors have been developed.

8. Most countries recognize that they will need continued awareness, sensitization and education to get their whole population to participate effectively in the UNCCD process. Women's participation in the process is still below the expected levels in most of the countries. The importance of the participation of women's groups in the UNCCD process cannot be overemphasised. The secretariat is continuing to assist in strengthening the capacities of women's community groups.

9. The non-governmental organizations are also developing their collaboration with governments in support of the national action programmes.

10. With respect to the participatory and consultative mechanisms intended to lead to the elaboration of national action programmes, nearly all African countries have set up institutional coordinating bodies with national steering committees, focal point secretariats and technical subcommittees, all these organs having

multidisciplinary and multisectoral representation from government department institutions of higher learning and research, non-governmental organizations a community-based organizations, the private sector and the donor community.

11. Twenty countries have to date organized a national forum to validate and ado the national action programme that they had elaborated on the basis of t participatory and consultative approaches emphasized in the Convention, and fo countries are planning to hold the first national forum in the last quarter of 199

12. A few countries organized an environment financing sectoral round table, a presented priority elements of the national action programme, mostly integrated the national environmental action plan (NEAP), for financing to the donor communi and hereby launched the implementation phase. In this context, it is notewort that several countries have combined the processes of NEAPs and NAPs to formula a single programme. Those countries which had already elaborated a NEAP relat the NAP closely to it.

13. Many countries are developing mechanisms to bring synergy into t coordination of the implementation of the three conventions on biological diversi (CBD), climate change (UNFCCC) and desertification (UNCCD), especially at distri and community level (see document ICCD/COP(3)/9).

14. In eastern and southern Africa, the Intergovernmental Authority on Developme (IGAD) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) have been playing major role in helping their respective member countries to elaborate and coordina their national action programmes, and to identify priority areas for implementatio Because of the difficulties of involving external partners in a structured respon to the needs emerging from the NAP process, several countries are considering t designation of selected countries to serve as *chef de file* to coordinate partnersh arrangements and involvement of extended partners in the NAP process.

15. At the subregional level, various consultations took place to draw up furth subregional action programmes.

16. In West Africa, the two relevant subregional intergovernmental organizatio the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) and t Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have been designated to act focal points in the preparation and implementation of the subregional acti programme to combat desertification in West Africa. Four of the five steps referr to in document ICCD/COP(2)/5 have now been taken: the last one took place in N 1999, when the Council of Ministers in charge of Agriculture and Environment adopt the programme. The remaining final step of having it adopted by the Conference ECOWAS Heads of State, including Chad, is imminent. In the meantime, strategi to launch the implementation phase are being devised.

17. In North Africa, the first draft of the subregional action programme was reviewed in July 1999. Together with its members, the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) is planning to organize in Algiers, in September 1999, a subregional forum to consider and adopt the programme.

18. As part of the implementation of the Convention at subregional level, several Maghreb and Sahel countries have promoted pilot projects located in border areas, with a view to managing shared natural resources in a more effective manner. Potential sites and a methodology to design such projects had been identified at a meeting in August 1996 in Ouagadougou, referred to in document ICCD/COP(2)/7. To date, six transboundary pilot projects have been formulated with the support of the secretariat and other interested partners in the following border areas: Senegal/Mauritania, Mali/Mauritania, Mali/Algeria, Mali/Burkina Faso, Algeria/Tunisia, Niger/Burkina Faso. Various partners at regional and international level have shown interest in supporting the implementation of these projects.

19. SADC has continued to draw up specific projects in the subregional action programme priority areas. For example, a project on capacity-building at community level on land degradation and desertification control has been formulated and submitted to some cooperation partners for funding. SADC is still searching for support to implement the early-warning programme and the revised Kalahari-Namib action plan. In November 1998, a subregional meeting was convened to consider and approve a one-year programme for the multidisciplinary science and technology consultative committee to provide a scientific basis for implementing the Convention in southern Africa.

20. In East Africa, IGAD has undertaken three major activities related to the development of priority projects in the fields of environment and food security, renewable energy sources and water resources management. These are part of the nine priority areas agreed upon by IGAD member states under the IGAD subregional action programme.

21. At the regional level, pursuant to the Pan-African Conference on the Implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification and Follow-up in Africa of the Results of UNCED, held in March 1997, the secretariat, in cooperation with African and international institutions and cooperation partners for development, is continuing to assist the African specialized institutions in formulating the regional action programme.

22. The Pan-African Conference recommended that the regional action programme be drawn up on the basis of seven thematic workshops, each of which would concentrate on a theme considered to be of major concern to the region. The most important objective of these workshops is the promotion of efficient networks in all priority areas.

23. At this stage, six of these workshops have already taken place. The four he
before COP 2, referred to in document ICCD/COP(2)/5, dealt with (a) ecologic
monitoring, natural resources mapping, remote sensing and early-warning system
(b) agroforestry and soil conservation; (c) rational use of rangelands a
development of fodder crops; and (d) promotion of new and renewable energy sourc
and technologies. The fifth and sixth workshops dealt with integrated managemen
of international river, lake and hydrogeological basins in Africa, and wi
sustainable agricultural farming systems. The seventh and final workshop on t
promotion of an enabling environment and capacity-building, will be held prior
COP 3.

24. A first review of these workshops was carried out at the African region
meeting which took place in November 1998 in Tunis. A validation forum on t
outcome of all seven workshops will be held before COP 3 at the African Region
Conference which is planned to take place in Nairobi in September 1999.

25. The secretariat was requested by the African specialized institutions
facilitate the identification of institutional focal points for the various networ
envisaged for the implementation of the action programme. Focal institutions wi
be designated by the African Regional Conference to be held in September 1999
Nairobi. The functioning of the networks and the role of the institutional foc
points were defined during the thematic workshops.

26. Finally, it needs to be recalled that Africa has also initiated the proce
of establishing a regional coordination unit, whose main purpose is to support t
regional action programme in facilitating the implementation of the Convention
regional level and to ensure communication and collaboration among the networ
emerging from the seven thematic workshops. The institutional arrangement w
concluded in May 1999 and a memorandum of understanding has been signed between t
housing institution, the African Development Bank (ADB) and the secretariat. T
unit will be operational before COP 3.

III. MEASURES TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION IN ASIA

27. At the national level, all countries have designated national focal poin
and are at various stages of development or implementation of their national acti
programmes. Many are reviewing and updating existing planning instruments in t
light of the Convention. A national workshop on the implementation of the UNC
in Pakistan was held in Islamabad, 22-23 May 1999. In Yemen, a national worksh
to review the national action plan to combat desertification and land resour
degradation was held from 30 May to 2 June 1999 and regional community consultatio
took place from 6 to 11 June 1999. National awareness seminars on combati
desertification will be held in Indonesia and Sri Lanka, in September 1999. In t
Lao People's Democratic Republic, the national workshop on UNCCD implementation
planned in Vientiane in September 1999. These events reflect the strong intere
of Asian Parties under various eco-climatic conditions in using the UNCCD as t
frame of reference to combat land degradation, desertification and drought.

28. The secretariat continued its institutional support to Kyrgyzstan aimed at strengthening national capacities in the preparation of the national action programme to combat desertification. It is initiating similar institutional support to four other countries of Central Asia. These projects aim at facilitating collaboration between governmental and non-governmental actors in the unfolding of the NAP process.

29. At the subregional level, the following activities have taken place:

(a) The international expert group meeting held in Muscat, 14-16 September 1998, agreed to further elaborate the draft programme proposals that had been prepared by the Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD), the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) and the Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE). Currently the Global Mechanism, in cooperation with the UNCCD secretariat, is further reviewing this proposal for a subregional action programme (SRAP) for Western Asia, with a view to arriving at an international consensus on funding. After ongoing consultations with the countries and institutions concerned, a subregional workshop is planned to conclude partnership arrangements for the support of the finalized SRAP;

(b) In 1998, the secretariat joined the Office to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNSO) in organizing a workshop on capacity-building in Kazakhstan for the national coordinating bodies from countries of Central Asia (financed by UNSO). Agreement was reached on the role of facilitator of the resident coordinator of the United Nations system. As a follow-up to this workshop, the secretariat in cooperation with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) is preparing a project on the establishment of international training courses to combat desertification for countries of Central Asia;

(c) The secretariat also contributed to the work of a seminar on the UNCCD and the CBD in Central Asia, which was held in Turkmenistan. Further to the request of participants, the secretariat is initiating with interested partners the preparation of a subregional action programme whose purpose is to harmonize initiatives to combat desertification in the Aral Sea basin;

(d) The Workshop on Combating Desertification in North-East Asia was held in Seoul on 19 July 1999 in collaboration with UNDP and the North-East Asia Forest Forum to discuss desertification issues in North-East Asia, which includes China, Mongolia and the Korean peninsula. At the workshop, subregional impacts of desertification were examined and possible collaboration in the subregion was discussed;

(e) The island States of South-East Asia have expressed a strong interest in joining efforts to address issues related to land use, drought and water scarcity under the UNCCD and the secretariat is consulting with other interested institutions on the formulation of a proposal to meet their concerns.

30. The secretariat is actively supporting non-governmental organizations fr Central Asia at the national level. The secretariat provided institutional suppo to such organizations from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenista Uzbekistan and Mongolia. This institutional support enables them to steadily bui the foundation for a broader awareness of the UNCCD process, and encourage networking and the exchange of information amongst all stakeholders. It assis non-governmental organizations in targeting their input into the NAP process, a at the same time encourages the use of successful methods in combating la degradation.

31. At the regional level, Asian countries have made substantial progress:

(a) The International Expert Group Meeting on the Preparation of t Regional Action Programme for Asia was held in Bangkok, Thailand, 10-13 Novembe 1998, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission f Asia and the Pacific. At the meeting, the framework, time-frame and institution arrangement concerning the regional action programme for Asia, composed of s thematic programme networks (TPNs), were discussed, particularly the Asian region networks on desertification monitoring and assessment (TPN1), agroforestry and so conservation (TPN2), and rangeland management and sand dune fixation (TPN3). was proposed to hold launching meetings of TPNs 1-3 in the second half of 1999. was also agreed to set up a regional back-up facility similar to the region coordination units for the other regions;

(b) The Launching Meeting of TPN1 took place in Beijing, China, 26-27 Jul 1999, and agreed on institutional and programme arrangements for the network. T launching meetings of TPNs 2 and 3 are to take place in India and the Islam Republic of Iran in September and October 1999, respectively, subject to furth consultations and timely availability of funds;

(c) In order to review progress at both national and regional levels, second Asian meeting of UNCCD focal points was held in Beijing, China, 24-25 Jul 1999. It endorsed decisions on the development and implementation of TPNs a considered the preparation of national reports by Asian countries for review at C 4 and other issues on the agenda of COP 3.

32. At the interregional level, the following must be reported:

(a) While preparation of the Interregional Action Programme to Comba Desertification in Countries of Central Asia, Transcaucasus and Eastern Europe under way as was requested in 1997 by the Tashkent Interregional Conference, i further development is being delayed due to the non-participation in the Conventio of some countries of eastern Europe;

(b) The Asia-Africa Technical Workshop on Early Warning Systems was he in Beijing, 22-23 July 1999. The workshop was attended by experts from the t regions to share experience in early-warning systems related to desertificatio

control and drought mitigation, and to discuss possible collaboration between the two regions in this area.

IV. MEASURES TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

33. At the national level, all countries of the region have now designated a national focal point. Some countries have gone further and have set up national or interdisciplinary committees to deal with the problems of land degradation and drought (e.g. Barbados and Jamaica). Others are making efforts to have issues of land degradation and the role of the UNCCD in dealing with these problems added to the curriculum of formal education on the environment. The development of national action plans and programmes of awareness of land degradation issues continues, with the hosting of national awareness workshops and seminars.

34. During the period under review, five more countries began work on the creation of their national action programmes. These are Barbados, Costa Rica, Dominica, Haiti and Jamaica. In Haiti (one of the more seriously affected countries of the region), a small coordinating unit was set up with help from the secretariat. This unit has the main objective of formulating a national action programme for that country. Other countries of the region continue to work on the implementation of their national action programme. This process is generally gaining momentum throughout the region.

35. In Argentina, the secretariat assisted the non-governmental organization "Los Algarrobos" in hosting a workshop on the UNCCD, desertification, poverty and gender.

36. At the subregional level, support was provided for the continuation of the Gran Chaco Americano project between Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay. Special attention is now being paid to providing greater support to the countries of Central America, in particular those struck by hurricane Mitch. Discussions are taking place with the GEF on the development and implementation of projects for the Eastern Caribbean subregion and for Hispaniola.

37. At the regional level, the regional coordinating unit has been set up in Mexico at the UNEP regional office. The countries of the region have been supported actively in the creation of the Regional Information Network on Desertification and Drought (DESELAC), including:

- The development of all basic concepts for a web page;
- The establishment of the page;
- The creation of the CD-LAC FORUM. This is the forerunner of DESELAC and it already connects more than 60 per cent of the countries of the region.

38. A monthly news bulletin is produced and shared with all countries which are part of the CD-LAC FORUM. Every effort is being made to have the remaining countries connected to the system. A series of electronic forums and workshops have been organized through the FORUM and there are plans to have more activities of this nature.

39. The second technical workshop and the fifth regional meeting were held in Lima, Peru from 9 to 12 August 1999. At this meeting, member States reviewed the implementation of the regional action programme and discussed issues on the agenda of COP 3, including the question of the preparation of national reports for COP 4.

40. The regional meeting reviewed also the implementation process of the Convention at all levels through an exchange of experience between Parties which are at different stages of this process. The meeting also approved a scale of contributions from countries to assist in meeting the cost of operating the regional coordinating unit. It should be noted that some countries of the region are already making financial contributions to the functioning of this unit.

41. At the interregional level, the first Latin America and Caribbean Forum on Desertification took place in Recife, Brazil, in October 1998. It identified the mechanism and priority areas for promoting interregional cooperation in the implementation of the UNCCD.

V. MEASURES TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION IN THE NORTHERN MEDITERRANEAN AND OTHER EUROPEAN REGIONS

42. At the national level, affected country Parties of the Northern Mediterranean and other European regions are in the process of drawing up their national action programmes (Greece, Italy, Malta, the Republic of Moldova, Portugal, Roumania, Turkey and Spain). Portugal officially approved and presented its NAP at the regional meeting in Lisbon, on 17 June 1999. Spain organized a technical day on the technologies available for the control of desertification on 17 June 1999. A draft of the Spanish NAP is expected to be ready by October 1999. Italy is establishing a clearing house for desertification and a draft of the Italian NAP is expected to be presented by October 1999. The draft of the Turkish NAP was to be presented in July 1999. Malta is pursuing national awareness raising on land degradation issues. Also at national level, the momentum for acceding to the Convention is building up in central and eastern Europe as countries realize the potential of the Convention to address a wide range of issues related to land degradation and drought.

43. At the regional level, Italy was designated during COP 2 in Dakar to chair the annex IV group. France is now an observer of the group. Portugal, in cooperation with the Chairperson of the annex IV group, organized a ministerial meeting of the annex IV countries in Lisbon, Portugal, on 17 June 1999. A focal point meeting was also organized by the Italian Government on 18 June 1999. The purpose was to present the progress of its members on the implementation of the

UNCCD at national level, to discuss the establishment of a regional working group to organize contacts with the European Union to prepare COP 3 and COP 4, and to promote an electronic exchange of information between the members. The main decision was the creation of a working group on national and regional action programmes. It was also agreed to have a meeting in September 1999 in Rome to work on the definition of the Mediterranean Regional Action Programme and to discuss further the results and the European Union approach in October/November 1999 in Brussels. The holding of further meetings before COP 3 is under consideration.

44. Informal consultations chaired by Ambassador Bo Kjellen were held in New York on 19 April 1999, on the draft text of an additional regional implementation annex for countries of central and eastern Europe. The text prepared by Ambassador Kjellen received broad agreement from the participants. Armenia as a Party to the Convention, submitted the text to the secretariat for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its third session.

45. On the occasion of the convening of the World Forum of Mayors on Cities and Desertification (Bonn, Germany, 11-12 June 1999), Italy, on behalf of the annex IV countries, sent a special message stressing that concrete action from decentralized authorities could help to fight desertification as an important component of participatory policies for sustainable development. It also urged city authorities to play an active role in this. Furthermore, the annex countries stressed that there was a need for renewed cooperation to address issues such as debt and migrations.

Annex

MAJOR NATIONAL, SUBREGIONAL AND REGIONAL
MEETINGS WITH SECRETARIAT INVOLVEMENT,
AUTUMN 1998 - AUTUMN 1999

Global and interregional

1998		
14-16 October	Recife	First Africa-Latin America and the Caribb Forum on Combating Desertification
1999		
11-12 June	Bonn	World Forum of Mayors on Cities a Desertification
22-23 July	Beijing	Asia-Africa Technical Workshop on Ea Warning Systems

Africa

1998		
15-16 September	Mukono/Uganda	Workshop on gender considerations in national action programme in Uganda
29 September-2 October	Abidjan	Regional workshop on integrated management international river, lake and hydrogeologi basins in Africa
12 October	Kampala	Awareness-raising workshop for Uganda memb of parliament on the NAP and UNCCD process Uganda
21-23 October	Nairobi	National forum
26-29 October	Tunis	Regional workshop on the promotion of new renewable energy sources and technologies
2-5 November	Tunis	Regional forum preparatory to COP 2
17-19 November	Addis Ababa	First national forum
18-20 November	Mukono/Uganda	First national forum

22-24 December	Cotonou	National seminar to validate the draft of the national action programme
1999		
15-16 March	Pretoria	SADC briefing session on the elaboration of national reports on UNCCD implementation
18-19 March	Nairobi	IGAD briefing session on the elaboration of national reports on UNCCD implementation
18-19 March	Rabat	AMU briefing session on the elaboration of national reports on UNCCD implementation
22-23 March	Ouagadougou	CILSS/ECOWAS briefing session on the elaboration of national reports on UNCCD implementation
23-26 March	Sadore, Niamey	Regional workshop on the promotion of sustainable agricultural farming systems
20-25 May	Lome	Experts and ministers meeting on the validation of the West African subregional action programme
27-29 May	Bamako	National Environmental Action Plan Financing Sectoral Round Table
7-9 June	Lome	National Workshop to Validate the National Environmental Action Plan
6-8 July	Rabat	AMU expert meeting on the preparation of the subregional action programme for North Africa
6-9 July	Ouagadougou	Second National Forum for the Validation of the National Action Programme
15-16 July	Kinshasa	Awareness-raising seminar
20-23 July	Harare	Regional workshop on the promotion of an enabling environment and capacity-building
3rd week of July	Kano/Nigeria	National workshop on the NAP process
September	Nairobi	African regional forum

Asia

1998

14-16 September	Muscat	International Expert Group Meeting for the Preparation of a Subregional Action Programme on Combating Desertification and Drought in Western Asia
10-13 November	Bangkok	International Expert Group Meeting on the Preparation of the Regional Action Programme for Asia

1999

22-23 May	Islamabad	National workshop on the implementation of the UNCCD in Pakistan
30 May - 2 June	Sana'a	National Workshop to Review the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification and Land Resource Degradation
6-11 June	Yemen	Community consultations on desertification and land resource degradation
15 July	Colombo	National awareness seminar on combating desertification in Sri Lanka
19 July	Jakarta	National awareness seminar on combating desertification in Indonesia
19 July	Seoul	Combating Desertification in North-East Asia
24-25 July	Beijing	Second Asian meeting of UNCCD national focal points
26-27 July	Beijing	Launching meeting of TPN 1 (Asian regional network on desertification monitoring and assessment)
September	Vientiane	National workshop on the UNCCD implementation in the Lao People's Democratic Republic

Latin America and the Caribbean

1998

3-5 November	Regional	Hosting of first electronic conference and workshop

1999

28-30 January	San Jose	National awareness seminar
23 April	Mexico City	Establishment of regional coordination unit
31 May-1 June	Bridgetown	National awareness seminar
7-11 June	Roseau	National awareness seminar
1 June	Port-au-Prince	Establishment of coordinating unit
9-12 August	Lima	Fourth regional meeting

Northern Mediterranean and other European regions

1998

2 December	Dakar	Regional meeting of annex IV

1999

7 April	Brussels	Third Meeting of the EC member States expert group
19 May	Tallinn	National awareness day
17 June	Lisbon	Regional ministerial meeting of annex IV
18 June	Lisbon	Focal points meeting of annex IV
July	Ankara	Presentation of the Turkish draft national action programme
September	Rome	Meeting of the working group of annex IV
October	Madrid	Presentation of the Spanish draft national action programme

October	Rome	Presentation of the Italian draft national action programme
October/November	Brussels	Annex IV working meeting

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

REVIEW OF REPORTS BY DEVELOPED COUNTRY PARTIES ON MEASURES TAKEN TO ASSIST IN THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION PROGRAMMES, INCLUDING INFORMATION ON FINANCIAL RESOURCES THEY HAVE PROVIDED, OR ARE PROVIDING, UNDER THE CONVENTION

Note by the secretariat

Addendum

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By decision 11/COP.1 on procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation, the Conference of the Parties:

(a) Requested developed country Parties to report on measures taken to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programmes, including information on financial resources they have provided, or are providing, under the Convention;

(b) Requested Parties to submit their reports to the secretariat at least six months prior to the session at which they are to be reviewed; and

(c) Requested the secretariat to compile the summaries of reports thus submitted.

2. By decisions 2/COP.2, paragraph 1(c), and 5/COP.2, paragraph 3, the Conference of the Parties, at its second session:

(a) Decided to include on the agenda of its third and, if necessary, fourth sessions, a review of reports by developed country Parties on measures taken to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programmes, including information on financial resources they have provided, or are providing, under the Convention; and

(b) Recalled that reports should be submitted in conformity with procedures contained in decision 11/COP.1.

II. REPORTS RECEIVED FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRY PARTIES

3. The secretariat sent several reminders in February, March and May 1999 to developed country Parties and also invited the European Union representative to send a reminder to all its members. A submission from Sweden was sent to the UNCCD secretariat before the deadline of 31 May 1999. Submissions from Canada, Finland, Germany, Spain and the United Kingdom (preliminary) were received before 2 July and have also been included in the compilation.

4. By decision 11/COP.1, the Conference of the Parties instructed the secretariat to compile the summaries of the submitted reports. This compilation is given below. In absence of a summary, the whole document was taken into account. When a report covered Africa and other regions, the compilation only considered the information concerning affected African developing country Parties. As most of the submitted reports followed their own format, the compilation had to be presented through a country approach. Therefore, on the basis of the reports and factual data submitted, it is not yet possible to draw pertinent conclusions on emerging trends in the implementation of the Convention with regard to developed countries.

III. SYNTHESIS OF INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REPORTS OF DEVELOPED COUNTRY PARTIES

5. The reports contain a great deal of interesting information and data, which may be classified in the following three categories, by order of the quantity of information provided:

(a) *Technical and financial data on bilateral cooperation activities* with affected African developing countries in terms of operational projects and programmes in fields related to desertification and combating desertification. The reports also revealed the difficulty of determining how much of a project's impact, or what share of a supported organization's work, should fall into the category of contributing to "combating desertification";

(b) *Information on support for desertification-related efforts carried out by various partners* such as non-governmental organizations (Northern, Southern and international) and academic institutions (universities and colleges). Support to multilateral development institutions engaged for combating desertification was also mentioned. The reports also pointed to the difficulty of measuring the direct impact of such activities on the implementation of the Convention at national and subregional level;

(c) *Information on assistance provided to developing countries and to subregional and regional institutions to prepare and implement their action programmes*. This category of priority information was not always provided in the detail required by decision 5/COP.2. Only scant information was given by developed countries on supported activities such as awareness-raising, national forums, training, and capacity-building in the framework of national, subregional and regional action programmes".

Canada

6. Canada supported Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal, in the preparation of their NAPs. Priority in this process was placed on consultation with, and participation by, the people most affected, and local level awareness and action. In Burkina Faso, Canada provided financial and technical help to the process, played a helpful role in the discussion on the development of national funds under the NAP and assisted in developing a methodology for indicators to measure the success of the consultative process for the NAP.

7. At subregional level, the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) programme on managing resources and combating desertification, which is helping in the preparation of desertification strategy, received financial assistance from Canada. Canada also supported various related initiatives, such as the project to strengthen community organizations in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger and to improve NGO coordination at national, regional and international levels. In West Africa, the Canadian NGO "Solidarité Canada Sahel" is implementing the

CAN$ 18 million project funded by the Canadian International Development Agency to strengthen civil society in the Sahel. In addition, media awareness-raising focused on support for the newsletter "Haramata", which links policy-makers and practitioners in East, West and Southern Africa. Furthermore, Canada contributes to all multilateral organizations active in Africa (United Nations agencies, World Bank, African Development Bank, IFAD, etc.) as well as to the Club du Sahel, the CILSS and the Southern African Development Community.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

8. The United Kingdom considers that a desertification NAP in a severely affected country may be assimilated to a national strategy for sustainable development, and seeks ways to simplify and rationalize the links between them. Through its experience in Africa, the United Kingdom stresses that desertification activities are best conceived as an integral component of other development activities and strategies, but this makes monitoring the contribution of different activities difficult. The United Kingdom has not yet participated in any partnership agreements with affected countries in Africa but plans to consider how best to support NAP based on priorities established by the affected countries concerned, including through partnership agreements, if appropriate.

9. The Department for International Development (DFID) bilateral programme for Africa is managed by six geographical departments, with a planned budget of £450 million for this financial year, almost 50 per cent of United Kingdom bilateral country spending. Commitments specifically to desertification-related activities over the last two years totalled £53.5 million. The United Kingdom also supports a number of multilateral organizations that contribute to the development of the poorest countries, particularly in Africa (including the European Community, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Bank) and has pledged over £215 million to the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

10. DFID is involved at national and provincial level in South Africa, in agricultural policy, land reform and land rights and in Botswana with relevant Government departments such as meteorological services, agriculture, wildlife and national parks. DFID also support agricultural capacity-building and environmental management initiatives in Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland and drew up individual drought strategy papers for Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The DFID projects in Zambia and Zimbabwe focus particularly on drought preparedness and mitigation. In East Africa, DFID supports initiatives to improve the livelihood of the poor in the drylands of Kenya and Somalia and implemented drought warning and food aid response projects in Ethiopia, Namibia, Somalia and Sudan. In North and West Africa, DFID is supporting government agricultural sector reforms in Ghana and also works with regional organizations (Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of West and Central Africa, Club du Sahel/CILSS and the Conférence de responsables de recherche agronomique africain (CORAF)).

Finland

11. Finland recently decided to provide funding through the Office to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNSO) for a multi-year programme of catalytic support for the implementation of the Convention in the Arab region encompassing also support for the launching of the NAP processes in two or more individual African countries and for a regional component covering all the countries of North Africa and Middle East. An agreement and action plans are being worked out during the latter part of 1999. The programme as a whole may amount to the equivalent of about US$ 2.0 million over three to four years. In addition, Finland has provided financial support of US$ 57,400 through the UNCCD secretariat, for the preparation of national reports by the African countries of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) subregion.

12. In 1998 and 1999 Finland contributed, through the UNCCD secretariat, a total of US$ 127,400 to the preparatory process for a regional action programme for Africa. The funding was used in the context of the regional action programme to combat desertification to support regional thematic workshops on promotion of agroforestry and soil conservation (held in Bamako in June 1998), on rangelands and fodder crops (held in Addis Ababa in August 1998) and on promotion of sustainable farming systems (held in Niamey in March 1999).

Germany

13. Germany is currently implementing approximately 120 bilateral projects in the field of desertification control in the narrower and in the broader sense, accounting for a total volume of commitments of more than DM 1 billion (around US$ 575 million). A special fund of approximately US$ 3.4 million was created in 1995 to support African country Parties in preparing their NAPs. So far, funding ranging from US$ 14,000 to US$ 315,000 has been approved for nine African countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, the Gambia, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa and Tunisia. In addition, three regional UNCCD conferences have been financed from the special fund (the Pan-African Ministerial Conference in Burkina Faso, 1997 for US$ 350,000; the Second Technical Workshop for Selected African Focal Points in Eritrea, 1997 for US$ 110,000; and the Third Technical Workshop for Selected African Focal Points in Lesotho, 1997 for US$ 110,000).

14. Germany became the *chef de file* in Mali in 1995, adopting coordinating functions on behalf of the donor side and supporting through organizational support, expert advice and catalytic functions, the joint drafting of the NAP and the implementation of the UNCCD by all interested donors. In Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, the Gambia, Namibia, Senegal and South Africa, representatives of German development cooperation are actively involved in the work of the national UNCCD coordinating bodies that have been set up there. The process of concluding partnership agreements is currently in its start-up phase. In Mali, where this process appears to be particularly far advanced, the German side is involved in preparatory deliberations on partnership agreements with interested donors.

15. Germany is supporting regional organizations CILSS, IGAD, SADC, the Club du Sahel and the Observatory of the Sahara and the Sahel (OSS), with a total funding of almost US$ 15.5 million since 1993, playing a prominent part in partnership agreements, programme support, coherent planning, and development of indicators. Germany also contributes to multilateral organizations playing a role in implementing the UNCCD in Africa (UNSO, UNEP, FAO, World Bank). Germany also contributes 24 per cent of the funding of the European Union on activities undertaken on desertification control and on implementing the Convention as well as providing more than 10 per cent of total GEF funding of US$ 350 million.

Spain

16. Spain, through bilateral cooperation, provided technical assistance to Algeria, Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Senegal and Tunisia to combat desertification, and to support sustainable development of developing countries, with special emphasis on fighting poverty and generating alternative incomes. Activities in Africa concerned the fight against desertification, soil conservation and erosion control (2), natural resources conservation and institutional support (16), conservation of water resources (5), forestry and hydrological recuperation of watersheds (3), natural parks and other protected areas (1), biodiversity (6), and capacity-building (3). Financial resources for these activities in Africa represent US$ 21,7 million. Spain also supported the activities of the African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development in the amount of Ptas 14,800,000.

Sweden

17. In the past ten years, Sweden supported 101 projects in 17 countries in dryland areas, 13 of which were in Africa. During 1998, more than 200 projects and activities related to the UNCCD were carried out under the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) regular programme. The total budget for these amounted to approximately US$ 35 million. SIDA has traditionally focused geographically on eastern and southern Africa and thematically on soil and water conservation and has made available SKr 400,000 to the UNCCD secretariat for regional seminars on local knowledge in the IGAD and SADC regions of Africa. But Sweden is also in the process of developing a programme in western Africa in line with the Convention. Preliminary contacts have been established with representatives of Burkina Faso and Mali, as well as the non-governmental organization communities and multilateral organizations.

18. The strategy of SIDA in the implementation of the UNCCD is to integrate the dryland issues into its ongoing dialogue with individual governments regarding the respective country strategy. At present, SIDA is revising its strategy for collaboration with Africa in order to strengthen the idea of partnership rather than the traditional donor-recipient relationship. This means that the dryland issues must be prioritized and pushed by the respective government as well as by SIDA, in order to increase the share of resources targeted for implementation of dryland projects. In order to further support the Convention, SIDA made available a grant of SKr 1 million to the Global Mechanism during 1998/99.

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

REVIEW OF REPORTS BY DEVELOPED COUNTRY PARTIES ON MEASURES TAKEN TO ASSIST IN THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION PROGRAMMES, INCLUDING INFORMATION ON FINANCIAL RESOURCES THEY HAVE PROVIDED, OR ARE PROVIDING, UNDER THE CONVENTION

Note by the secretariat

Addendum

The following summaries have been prepared by the secretariat based on new contributions received after 2 July 1999. The full texts of the reports are available on the UNCCD Website (www.unccd.de).

France

French cooperation supports actions aimed at developing skills, knowledge and circulation of information regarding desertification control. Action in 1999 concerned: support for African environmental information systems (project to support meteorology in Africa of the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD)), in the amount of 8 million francs; the AGRHYMET programme of the Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), in the amount of 11 million francs; and the DOSE programme of the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS), with its ROSELT, IMAGES and SID/SISEI components, for an amount of approximately 14 million francs; the development of desertification research and development partnerships for an amount of 5 million francs; the institution of programme of annual training workshops on desertification for developing countries; support for the activities of OSS in the spheres of implementation of the Convention (1 million francs) and consolidation of desertification-control results (1.3 million francs); and mobilization of stakeholders through the holding of "desertification days" and the making of films on desertification problems (0.7 million francs).

To follow up these initiatives, France has established a National Scientific Committee on Desertification. In addition, France is a strong supporter of OSS, providing financing equivalent to 55 per cent of the Office's total activities. It has also striven, together with its partners, Germany and Sweden, and the assistance of international organizations such as the Sahel Club, to develop tools for use in helping to ensure that desertification control is taken better into account in our programmes and developing coordination as regards implementation of the Convention between our activities, those of other donors and those of affected African countries. The tools comprise a table showing donor support for implementation of the Convention and a table showing how projects fit into the CCD context.

Lastly, France facilitates access to the Global Environment Facility, especially in the case of desertification-control projects in Africa (approximately 44 million francs or nearly 40 per cent of commitments in sub-Saharan Africa). In addition, it has launched a regional initiative entitled "Global environment and desertification control in Sahelian Africa" (for an amount of 21.5 million francs), which is aimed at establishing a regional procedure for mobilizing GEF funds for the Sahel.

Italy

In September 1998, the Italian Government approved the use of US$ 600,000 in favour of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), to provide assistance to local governments in the process of formulating the national action plans (NAPs) in Cape Verde and Niger. An IFAD mission went to Niger in March 1999 in order to: (i) analyse the NAP formulation process and methodology, in relation also to the level of participation of civil society and the local community in the formulation phase; (ii) determine the needs for further assistance in the final achievement of the NAP at local level; (iii) identify possible activities that IFAD could support (environmental policies, financial mechanisms) as well as

pilot activities in the areas of intervention of ongoing projects financed by IFAD; and (iv) prepare a detailed work plan and budget for IFAD support in the same field over a two-year period (1999-2000).

An IFAD mission also went to Cape Verde in March 1999. Cape Verde was the first country in Africa to ratify the Convention and its NAP process is therefore considered to be one of the most advanced in the region. The IFAD mission report, however, has highlighted some shortcomings concerning the integration of the different components of the plan. It is recommended to: (i) continue the international assistance activities during the process of formulating the NAP; (ii) strengthen the local dimension of the NAP; (iii) develop local pilot activities to combat desertification as a preamble to the full-scale implementation of wider programmes, such as the Rural Poverty Alleviation Programme, which is coordinated by IFAD.

Japan

During the period from 1993 to 1998, Japan contributed almost US$ 9 million to the Trust Fund and the Special Voluntary Fund established by General Assembly resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992. Japan has taken initiatives in the consultative processes and partnership agreements for development of Africa, such as: (i) providing support for the Asia-Africa Forum on Combating Desertification (which first met in Beijing in 1996, and then in Niger in 1997); and (ii) holding the second Tokyo International Conference on African Development (held in Tokyo in 1998). An overview of Japan's bilateral cooperation in supporting the preparation and implementation of action programmes at all levels is as follows: (i) establishment and strengthening of food security systems in the Central African Republic and the United Republic of Tanzania; (ii) promotion of alternative livelihoods in helping local people to improve facilities such as agricultural and other vocational training schools; (iii) improvement of the national economic environment aiming at the eradication of poverty and at ensuring food security in Burkina Faso and Niger; (iv) population family planning in Ghana and Kenya including promotion of maternal and child health; (v) conservation of water resources in securing a stable supply of fresh water in Kenya, Morocco and Senegal; (vi) reforestation and forest conservation in Benin, Mali and Senegal; (vii) agricultural development to secure water resources for agricultural production in Egypt, Malawi and Tunisia; (viii) development and efficient use of various energy sources in Cameroon and Zimbabwe; (ix) capacity building and education in agriculture and forestry and utilization of water resources; (x) support to women in Ethiopia and Mozambique in well-digging and vegetable cultivation; (xi) study and research on conservation of soil and water resources, agricultural development, socio-economic methods; (xii) support to activities of non-governmental organizations through grant assistance for grass-roots projects through the Japan Fund for Global Environment, Postal Savings for International Voluntary Aid and Japan International Forestry Promotion and Cooperation Centre.

Japan's support to international organizations was made through the following contributions: (i) to the Special Voluntary Fund and the Trust Fund (US$ 4,892,000 since 1994) in support of various meetings organized by the secretariat and the participation of developing countries in the Conference of the Parties; (ii) to the United Nations Environment Programme

(UNEP) activities to combat desertification and, in the form of data, to UNEP/GRID (Global Resources Information Database); (iii) to the core budget of and voluntary contributions to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for activities in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries; (iv) to the World Food Programme (WFP), which provides emergency food assistance to people suffering from hunger due to the effects of drought; for a total of US$ 220 million to the International Fund for Agricultural Development by financing various agricultural projects which help prevent desertification of farmland; (v) to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which trains nationals from African countries by conducting pilot projects; (vi) to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) regular budget and Voluntary Cooperation Fund, which support activities of various meteorological services through, inter alia, the World Climate Programme and the Agricultural Meteorology Programme; (vii) to the core budget of and voluntary contributions to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which conducts the Man and the Biosphere programme, and its special programme concerning "Women and water resource supply and use"; (ix) to the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research for research on crops suited to cultivation in the semi-arid tropics; (x) to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) for developing environment-friendly and sustainable industry in Africa; (xi) to the World Bank, in particular to the Policy and Human Resources Development Fund established by the World Bank; (xii) to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) (approximately US$ 415 million to the first replenishment and approximately US$ 411 million pledged for the second); (xiii) to the African Development Bank, which aids projects such as a water supply project in Tunisia and an irrigation project in Zimbabwe.

Netherlands

The total Netherlands commitment to ongoing programmes and projects to combat desertification in Africa is f. 823 million, of which 27 per cent (f. 218 million) is allocated at the central (ministerial or departmental) level, and 73 per cent (f. 605 million) by the Netherlands embassies. The main sectors supported are: direct environmental protection, integrated rural development, and institutional strengthening. In countries like Burkina Faso and Mali, the Netherlands embassies are deeply involved in the implementation of national action plans, and regular consultations with the Government are held. In countries where the Convention is not an urgent issue on the national agenda, the embassies comply with the policy priorities of that country but encourage implementation of the UNCCD or support UNCCD-related interventions. In Burkina Faso, the Netherlands serves as the "chef de file" to facilitate the process. In two other countries, the Netherlands embassy is a member of the donor group on the combat against desertification. In some other countries, such as Mozambique, donor coordination is as yet unclear.

The Netherlands report suggests that the involvement of the local population and the civil society in the implementation of the Convention and the national action plans should be encouraged. There is particularly little participation of the private sector and social groups such as women, pastoralists and youth. The level of knowledge and awareness about the